夕凪の街 桜の国

こうの史代

夕凪の街 桜の国

The Town of Evening Calm, The Country of Cherry-Blossoms

Fumiyo Kouno

こうの史代

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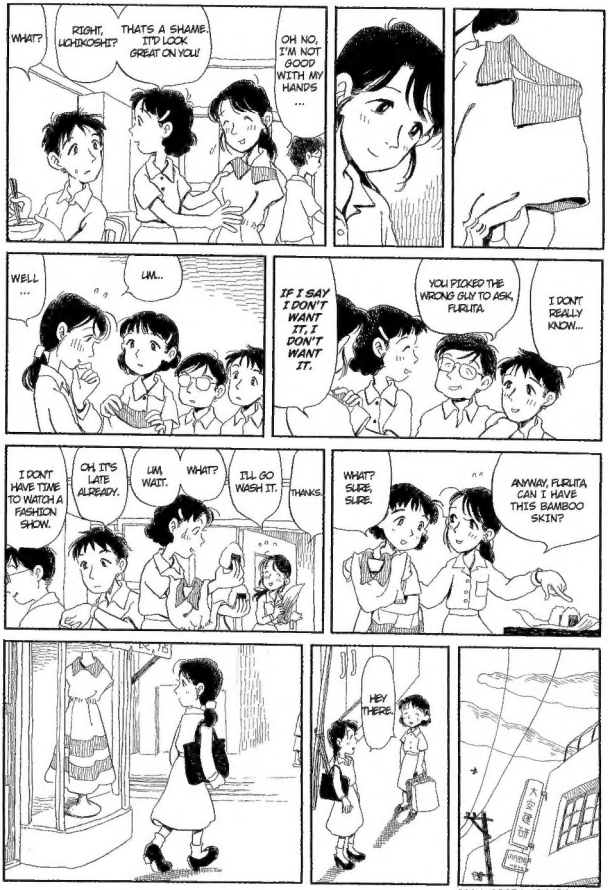
TO ALL THOSE WHO LOVE THIS WORLD,
WITH JAPAN AND HIROSHIMA IN IT.

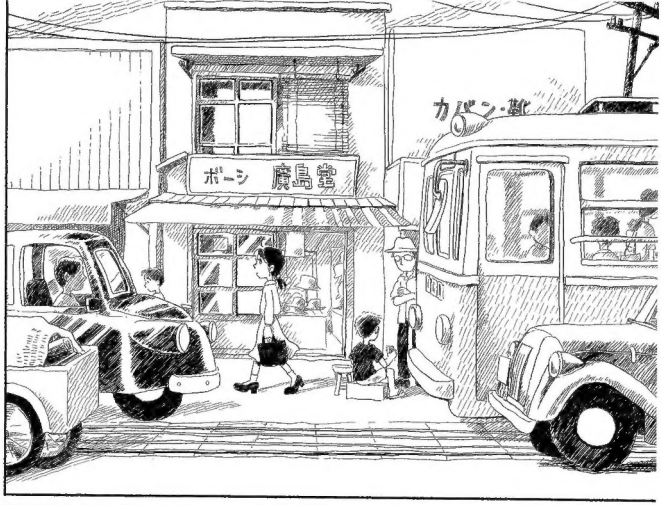
夕凪の街

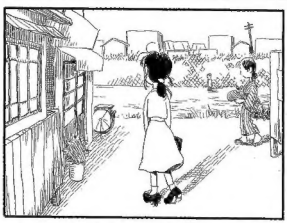
The Town of Evening Calm

YES, LET THE THREAD GO A LITTLE MORE SLACK...
LIKE THIS?
I DID IT!
IT'S JUST LIKE IT!
LMM...
WE SHOULD MAKE THE PATTERN PAPER A LITTLE THINNER FOR YOU, HIRANO.
I JUST LEARNED FROM MY MOM.
THANKS TO YOU, I GOT IT DONE CHEAPLY, HIRANO.

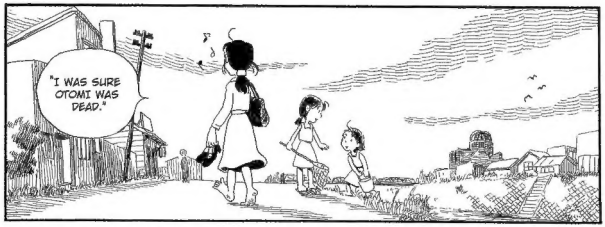

WHAT?
RIGHT, UCHIKOSHI?
THAT'S A SHAME. IT'D LOOK GREAT ON YOU!
OH NO, I'M NOT GOOD WITH MY HANDS ...
WELL ...
UM...
IF I SAY I DON'T WANT IT, I DON'T WANT IT.
YOU PICKED THE WRONG GUY TO ASK, FURUTA.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW...
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WATCH A FASHION SHOW.
OH, IT'S LATE ALREADY.
UM, WAIT.
WHAT?
I'LL GO WASH IT.
THANKS.
WHAT? SURE, SURE.
ANYWAY, FURUTA, CAN I HAVE THIS BAMBOO SKIN?
HEY THERE.

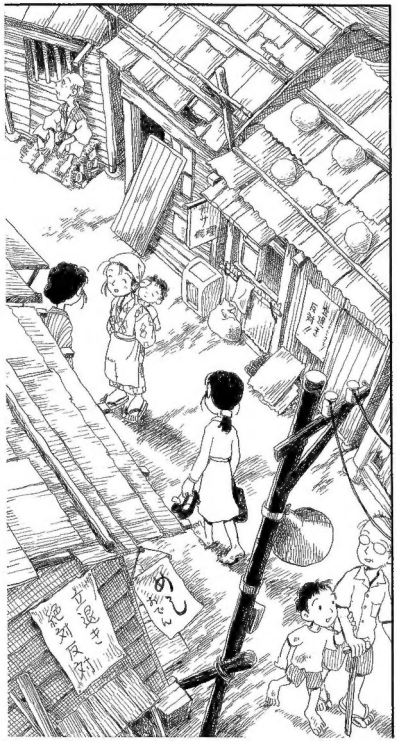
SIGN: OZORA KENKEN

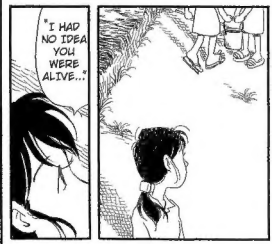

ボーシ
廣島堂
カバン・靴



40th Anniversary of the Bombing
LET'S ALL OF US MAKE THE WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST A&H BOMBS SUCCEED!







JASRAC !!0412143-401

WELCOME BACK, MINAMI.
I'M BACK!
To Fujimi and Minami Hirano
Asahi Ishikawa, Mito-City
I SEE.
FURUTA WAS SO HAPPY HER DRESS WAS FINISHED.
HEY, YOU'VE GOT BAD MANNERS.
IT'D BE GOOD IF HE JOINED THE CARP.*
SO ASAHI'S IN THE BASEBALL TEAM NOW?
HIS HANDWRITING'S STILL AWFUL.

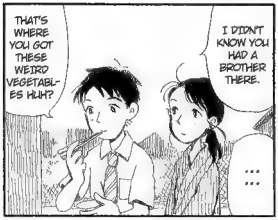
CARP: HIROSHIMA CARP BASEBALL TEAM

...
...
...
...
LET ME FIND A POSTCARD.
I GUESS WE SHOULD WRITE BACK.
I NEED TO GO PAY BACK AUNT ISHIKAWA FOR MY TUITION FEES TOO...
OH MY, IT'S RAINING.
I'LL SAVE UP SOME MONEY AND TAKE YOU TO HIM.
JUST YOU WAIT!

WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE ROOF.
YEAH...
ぽた
ぽた
ぴちん
ぴちゃ
ぴゃ!

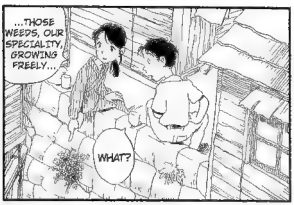
YES?
HIRANO
YOU DIDN'T SHOW SO I CAME TO CHECK ON YOU. ARE YOU OK TO BE OUT OF BED?
OH, UCHIKOSHI... HI THERE.
AH-
YEAH. IT HAPPENS A LOT.
IS SHE OK?
I SEE...
OH, YEAH... MY MOM WASN'T FEELING WELL SO I TOOK HER TO THE HOSPITAL.

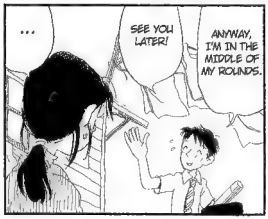
I'M SORRY, MY MOM'S ASLEEP INSIDE.
AND IT'S ALL SHINY IN HERE BECAUSE OF THE RAIN.
SHINY?
...
...
HUH.
...
THOSE ARE SLUG TRAILS!
...
...
I WONDER IF HASEGAWA WILL WIN 100 GAMES.
YEAH, HE WILL.
HUH, I WONDER IF KANEYAMA WILL GET TO STEAL 400 BASES.
IT'S A WASTE FOR MY SHOES TO WEAR OUT ON MY WAY THERE AND BACK.
OH, I'M GOING TO MAKE SANDALS WITH THEM.
BY THE WAY, YOU'RE COLLECTING BAMBOO SKINS, AREN'T YOU? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THEM?


THAT'S WHERE YOU GOT THESE WEIRD VEGETABLES HUH?
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A BROTHER THERE.
...
...

I NEED TO SAVE MONEY.
I'M GOING TO MITO CITY.
TO SEE ASAHI... MY YOUNGER BROTHER.

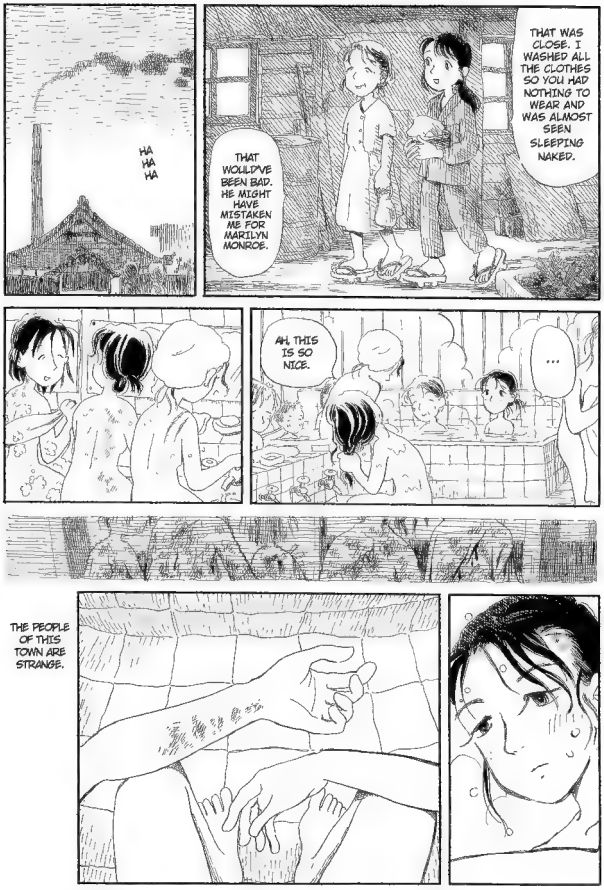
Y-YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A GOOD BRIDE SOMEDAY, HIRANO.
YEAH... THEY'RE PRETTY GOOD.
YOUR FAMILY ARE FARMERS, AREN'T THEY UCHIKOSHI? YOU DON'T EAT STUFF LIKE THIS.

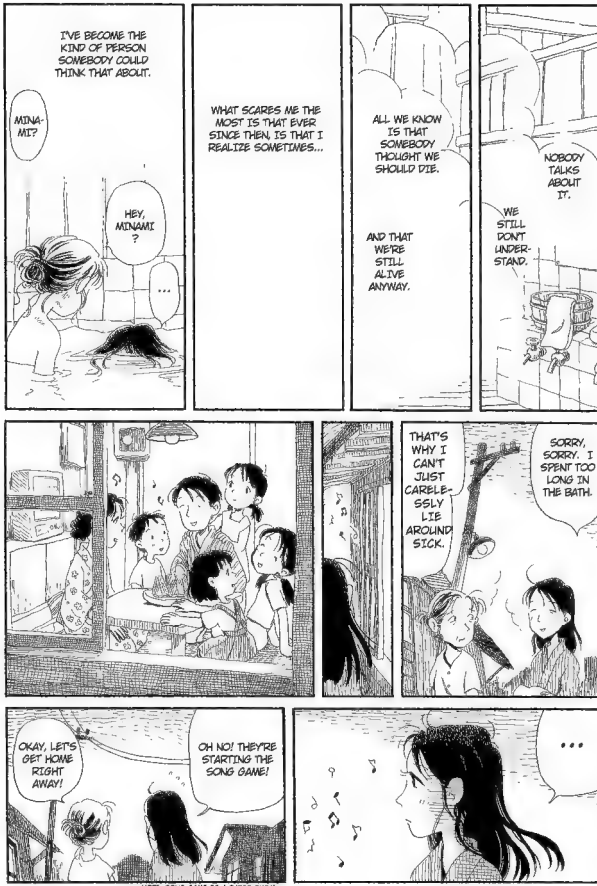

...THOSE WEEDS, OUR SPECIALTY, GROWING FREELY...
WHAT?


...
SEE YOU LATER!
ANYWAY, I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF MY ROUNDS.

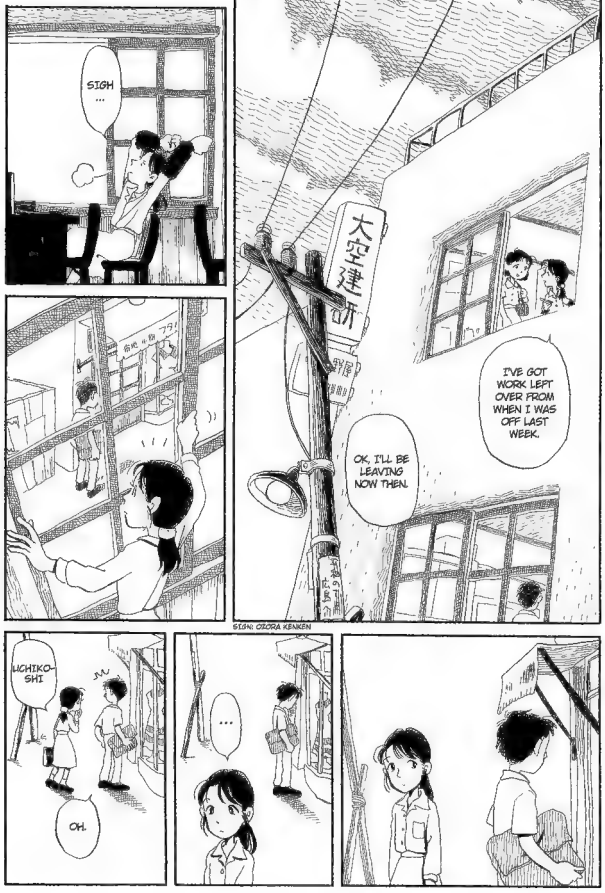
YEAH, I GUESS.
MINAMI WAS THAT A GUEST?

I'M NOT GONNA BE ANYBODY'S BRIDE!
SHUT UP!
GET LOST!
OH MAN. SORRY, SORRY.


HA HA HA
THAT WOULDVE BEEN BAD. HE MIGHT HAVE MISTAKEN ME FOR MARILYN MONROE.
THAT WAS CLOSE. I WASHED ALL THE CLOTHES SO YOU HAD NOTHING TO WEAR AND WAS ALMOST SEEN SLEEPING NAKED.
AH, THIS IS SO NICE.
...
THE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN ARE STRANGE.


I'VE BECOME THE KIND OF PERSON SOMEBODY COULD THINK THAT ABOUT.
MINAMI?
HEY, MINAMI?
...
WHAT SCARES ME THE MOST IS THAT EVER SINCE THEN, IS THAT I REALIZE SOMETIMES...
ALL WE KNOW IS THAT SOMEBODY THOUGHT WE SHOULD DIE.
AND THAT WE'RE STILL ALIVE ANYWAY.
NOBODY TALKS ABOUT IT.
WE STILL DON'T UNDER-STAND.
SORRY, SORRY. I SPENT TOO LONG IN THE BATH.
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T JUST CARELE-SSLY LIE AROUND SICK.
OKAY, LET'S GET HOME RIGHT AWAY!
OH NO! THEY'RE STARTING THE SONG GAME!
...

NOTE: SONG GAME IS A RADIO SHOW.

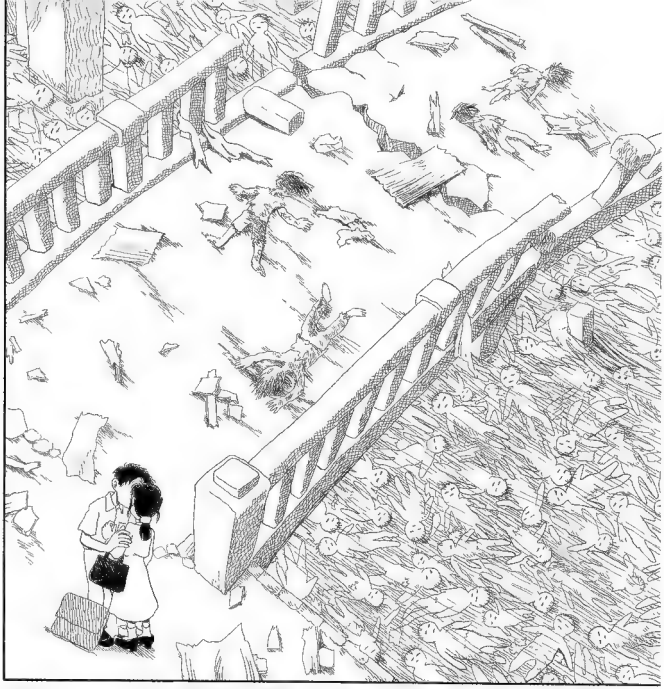

SIGH...
大空建
I'VE GOT WORK LEFT OVER FROM WHEN I WAS OFF LAST WEEK.
OK, I'LL BE LEAVING NOW THEN.
SIGN: OZORA KENKEN
UCHIKO-SHI
OH.
...

I'M GIVING IT TO A GIRL I LIKE...
...
SURE.
HEY, GOOD TIMING. WOULD YOU HELP ME PICK ONE?
THAT'S WHY YOU TALK ABOUT NOTHING BUT THE CARP TO ME.
THAT'S RUDE.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ONLY INTERESTED IN THE CARP AND IN RIKIDOUZAN?
OH...?
NOTE: RIKIDOUZAN WAS A POPULAR KOREAN JAPANESE WRESTLER OF THE TIME
WHAT?
WHAT ABOUT THIS?
OH, HEY, UCHIKO-SHI.
OH, FORGET IT!
NAH, I MAY BE BUSY WITH OVERTIME ...
HE'S COMING TO THE GENERAL GROUNDS, RIGHT? YOU GOING TO SEE.
WANT TO TALK ABOUT RIKIDO-UZAN?
SEE YOU LATER!
OH, I'LL TAKE THIS.
HEY, NOBODY ASKED YOU!
A HANDK-ERCHIEF?
YOU CAN USE IT TO CRY WHEN SHE DUMPS YOU.

HEY, WAIT, HIRANO!
I HAD MY GRANDMOTHER WEAVE THESE FOR YOU. PLEASE USE THEM.
OH!
...THANK YOU.
...
AND THIS TOO.
IT'S THANKS FOR THE MEAL I HAD AT YOUR PLACE.

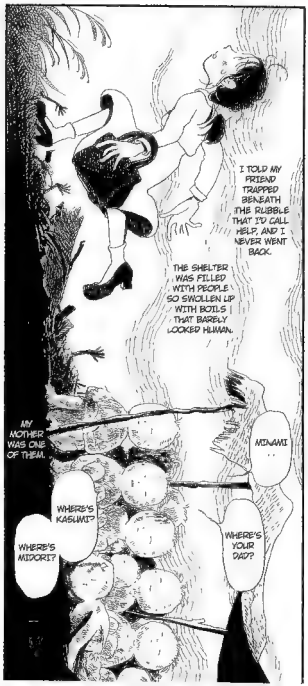
?
OH, MY...
THESE FEELS GREAT!
GLAD TO HEAR IT!
OH...
I'M GOING TO LEARN TO MAKE MY OWN BEFORE THESE GET DIRTY.
HUH? YOU'RE TAKING THEM OFF ALREADY?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE IT BACK?
NO...
I'M SORRY.

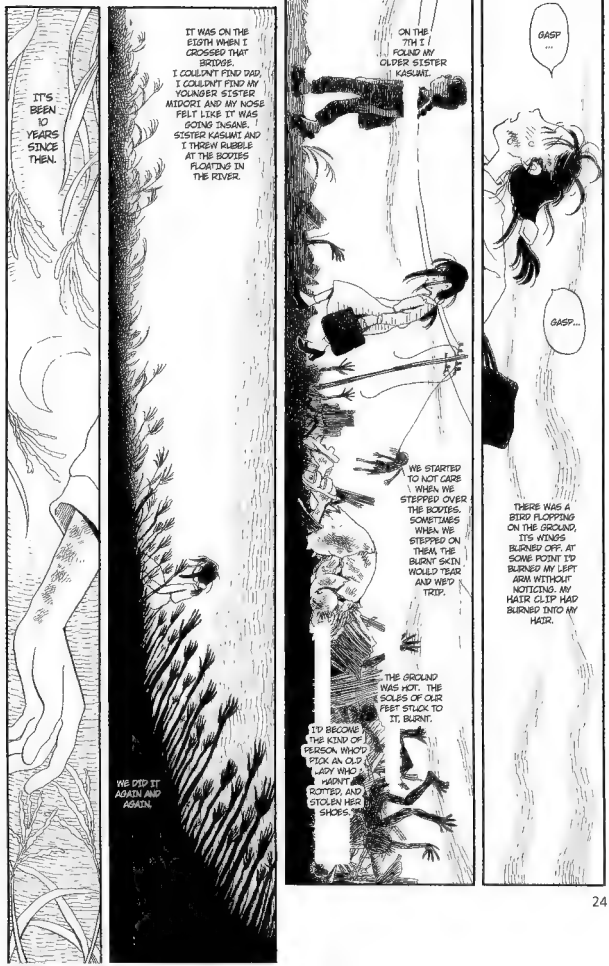
THAT HANDKERCHIEF, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE IT BACK?
NO...
THANK YOU.



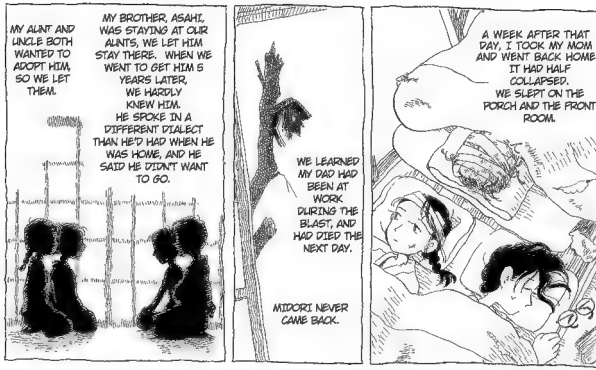
I'M SORRY.
NO...

"THIS WORLD ISN'T FOR YOU," I HEAR SOMEONE SAYING.

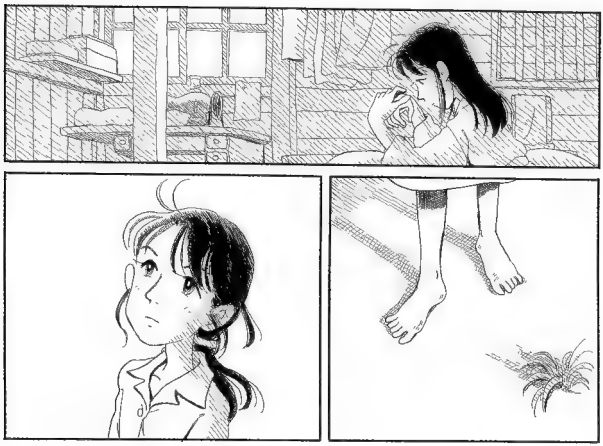

I TOLD MY FRIEND TRAPPED BENEATH THE RUBBLE THAT I'D CALL HELP, AND I NEVER WENT BACK.
THE SHELTER WAS FILLED WITH PEOPLE SO SWOLLEN UP WITH BOILS THAT BARELY LOOKED HUMAN.
MY MOTHER WAS ONE OF THEM.
MIWAKI...
WHERE'S KASUMI?
WHERE'S MIDORI?
WHERE'S YOUR DAD?


IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS SINCE THEN.
IT WAS ON THE EIGTH WHEN I CROSSED THAT BRIDGE.
I COULDN'T FIND DAD. I COULDN'T FIND MY YOUNGER SISTER MIDORI AND MY NOSE FELT LIKE IT WAS GOING INSANE. I, SISTER KASUMI AND I THREW RUBBLE AT THE BODIES FLOATING IN THE RIVER.
WE DID IT AGAIN AND AGAIN.
ON THE 7TH I FOUND MY OLDER SISTER KASUMI.
WE STARTED TO NOT CARE WHEN WE STEPPED OVER THE BODIES. SOMETIMES WHEN WE STEPPED ON THEM, THE BURNT SKIN WOULD TEAR AND WE'D TRIP.
THE GROUND WAS HOT. THE SOLES OF OUR FEET STUCK TO IT, BURNT.
I'D BECOME THE KIND OF PERSON WHO'D PICK AN OLD LADY WHO HADN'T ROTTED, AND STOLEN HER SHOES.
GASP ...
GASP...
THERE WAS A BIRD FLOPPING ON THE GROUND, ITS WINGS BURNED OFF. AT SOME POINT I'D BURNED MY LEFT ARM WITHOUT NOTICING. MY HAIR CLIP HAD BURNED INTO MY HAIR.

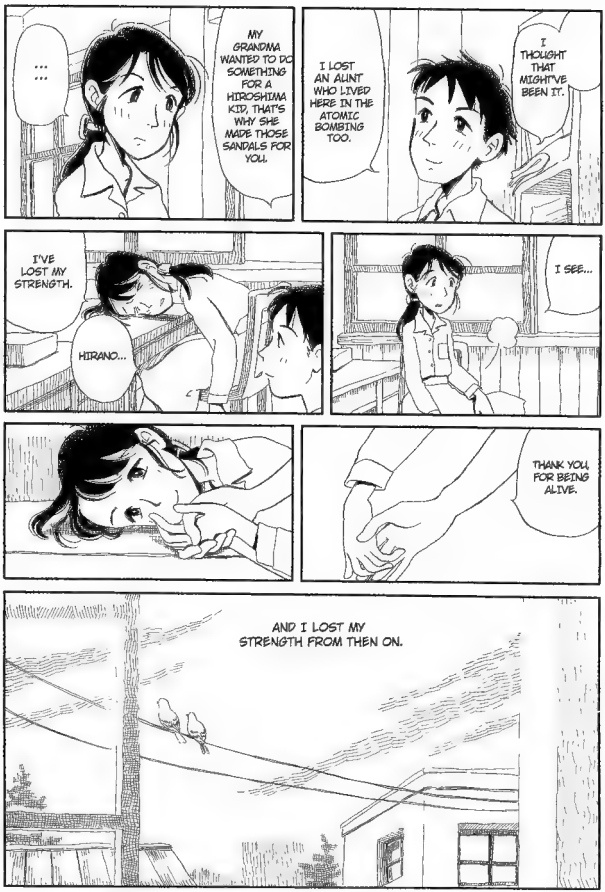
I'M BACK...
SHE DIDN'T SEE WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY.
.....
WHAT'S WRONG, MINAMI? YOU'RE CRYING.
HER FACE SWELLED UP, AND SHE COULDN'T OPEN HER EYES FOR A MONTH.
YEAH, I TRIPPED
I WANT TO GO TO SLEEP.
I'M KINDA TIRED.
IT WOULD ALL BE OVER IF I JUST FORGOT.
EVERY TIME I THINK I'M HAPPY.
EVERY TIME I THINK SOMETHING'S BEAUTIFUL... I REMEMBER EVERYTHING ABOUT THE CITY I USED TO LOVE. I REMEMBER ALL THE PEOPLE.
I'M DRAGGED BACK TO THE DAY I LOST IT ALL.
SOMEONE TELLS ME THIS WORLD ISN'T FOR ME.


MY AUNT AND UNCLE BOTH WANTED TO ADOPT HIM, SO WE LET THEM.
MY BROTHER, ASAHI, WAS STAYING AT OUR AUNT'S. WE LET HIM STAY THERE. WHEN WE WENT TO GET HIM 5 YEARS LATER, WE HARDLY KNEW HIM. HE SPOKE IN A DIFFERENT DIALECT THAN HE'D HAD WHEN HE WAS HOME, AND HE SAID HE DIDN'T WANT TO GO.
WE LEARNED MY DAD HAD BEEN AT WORK DURING THE BLAST, AND HAD DIED THE NEXT DAY.
MIDORI NEVER CAME BACK.
A WEEK AFTER THAT DAY, I TOOK MY MOM AND WENT BACK HOME. IT HAD HALF COLLAPSED. WE SLEPT ON THE PORCH AND THE FRONT ROOM.

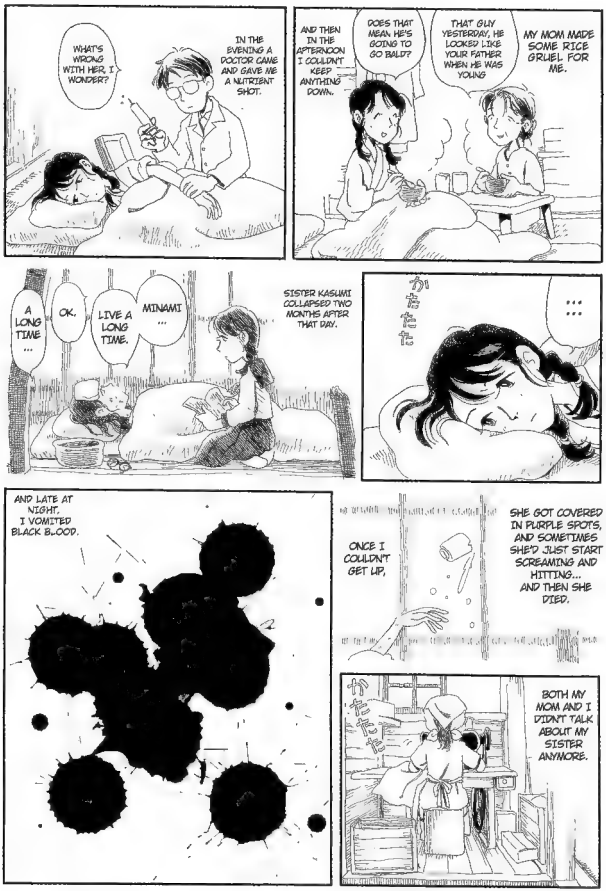
IF I'D ONLY FORGET ABOUT IT, IT WOULD BE OVER.

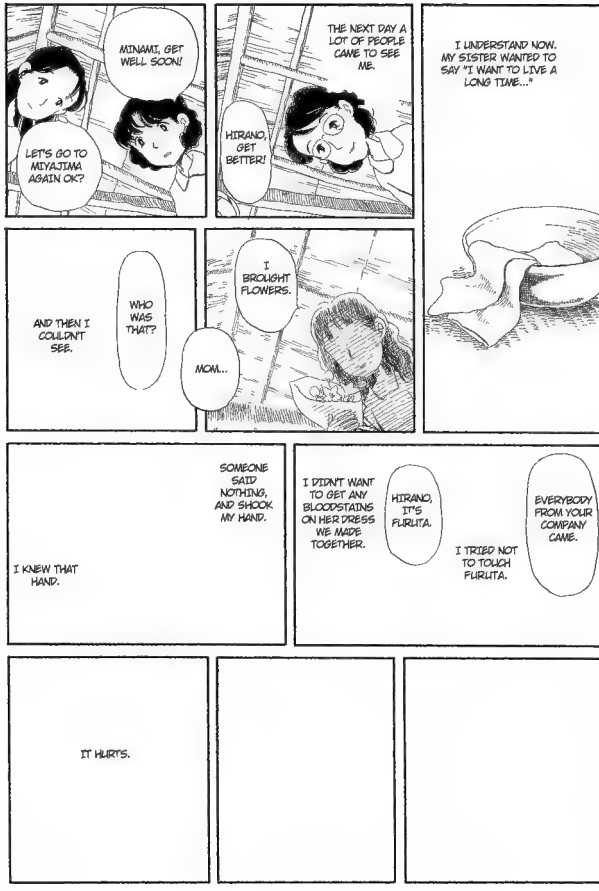


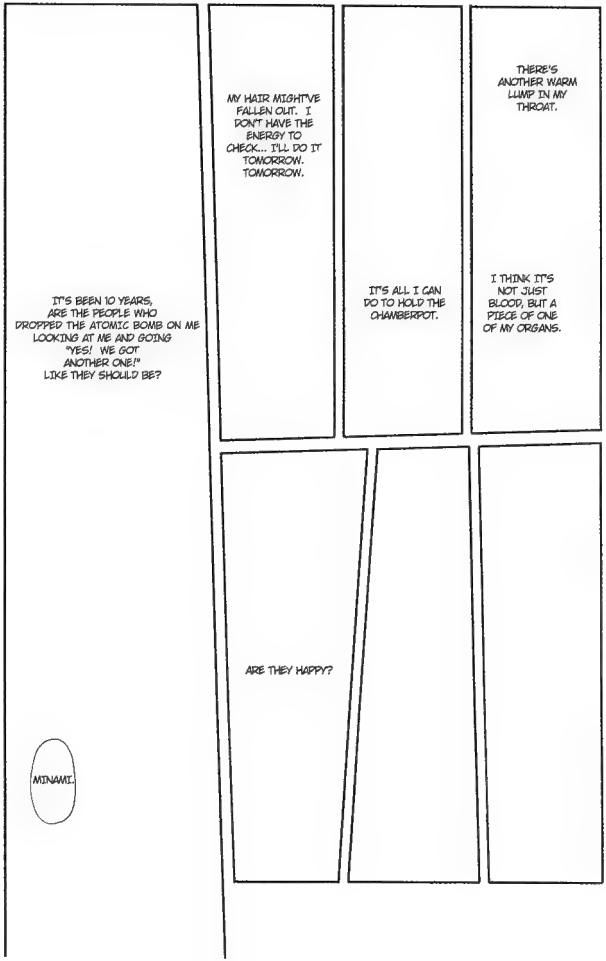
GOOD MORNING.
...
UCHIKOSHI ...
I'M SORRY... I WON'T DO THAT AGAIN.
TELL ME THAT THIS WORLD IS FOR ME, TOO.
PLEASE, TELL ME.
THEN MAYBE I WON'T FEEL SO SORRY TOWARDS MY SISTERS THAT I MET YOU...
LET ME TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED TEN YEARS AGO.
THEN MAYBE I'LL KNOW WHY I WAS LEFT BEHIND INSTEAD OF DYING.

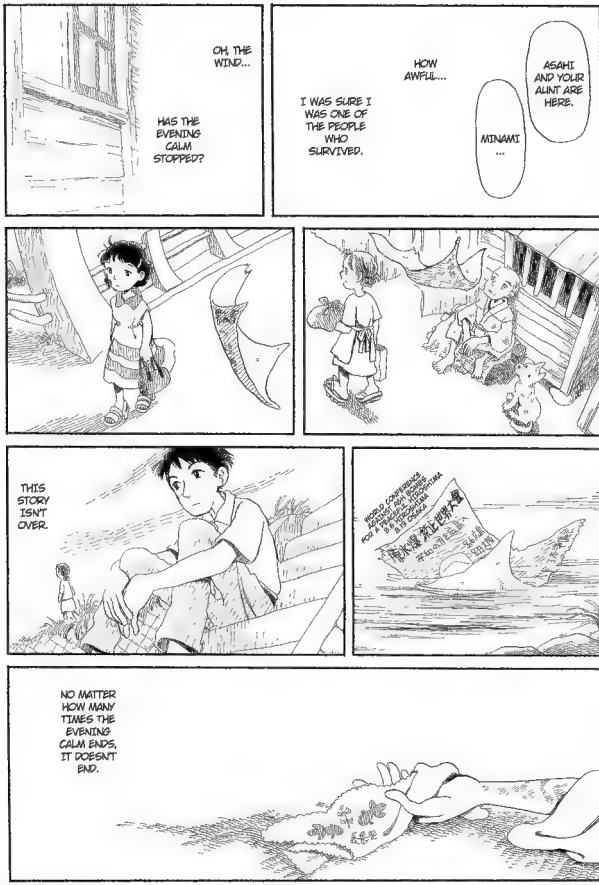

...
...
MY GRANDMA WANTED TO DO SOMETHING FOR A HIROSHIMA KID, THAT'S WHY SHE MADE THOSE SANDALS FOR YOU.
I LOST AN AUNT WHO LIVED HERE IN THE ATOMIC BOMBING TOO.
I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT'VE BEEN IT.
I'VE LOST MY STRENGTH.
HIRANO...
I SEE...
THANK YOU FOR BEING ALIVE.
AND I LOST MY STRENGTH FROM THEN ON.

UCHIKOSHI CALLED "DEAR"...
I TOLD YOU THAT BEFORE!
HUH!?
DEAR, YOU REALLY AREN'T GOOD WITH YOUR HANDS.
THE NEXT DAY I TOOK OFF WORK.
YOU MUST BE TIRED FROM TOO MUCH WORK.
MAYBE.
SLEEP WELL.
THANKS FOR COMING!
"EVEN IF WE NEVER MEET AGAIN,
I'LL KEEP MY MEMORIES,
OF THE TREE-LINED PATH WHERE I SWORE MY LOVE TO YOU.
NOW LET'S THE TWO OF US GO HOME..."
AND THEN NEXT DAY, I COULDN'T STAND UP ANYMORE.
"THE MOON'S SO BLUE,
LET'S TAKE THE LONG WAY HOME..."
I SAW HIM SING FOR THE FIRST TIME.


WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER, I WONDER?
IN THE EVENING A DOCTOR CAME AND GAVE ME A NUTRIENT SHOT.
AND THEN IN THE AFTERNOON I COULDN'T KEEP ANYTHING DOWN.
DOES THAT MEAN HE'S GOING TO GO BALD?
THAT GUY YESTERDAY, HE LOOKED LIKE YOUR FATHER WHEN HE WAS YOUNG
MY MOM MADE SOME RICE GRUEL FOR ME.
A LONG TIME...
OK.
LIVE A LONG TIME.
MINAMI...
SISTER KASUMI COLLAPSED TWO MONTHS AFTER THAT DAY.
...
...
AND LATE AT NIGHT. I VOMITED BLACK BLOOD.
ONCE I COULDN'T GET UP,
SHE GOT COVERED IN PURPLE SPOTS, AND SOMETIMES SHE'D JUST START SCREAMING AND HITTING... AND THEN SHE DIED.
BOTH MY MOM AND I DIDN'T TALK ABOUT MY SISTER ANYMORE.


MINAMI, GET WELL SOON!
LET'S GO TO MIYAJIMA AGAIN OK?
THE NEXT DAY A LOT OF PEOPLE CAME TO SEE ME.
HIRANO, GET BETTER!
I UNDERSTAND NOW. MY SISTER WANTED TO SAY "I WANT TO LIVE A LONG TIME..."
AND THEN I COULDN'T SEE.
WHO WAS THAT?
I BROUGHT FLOWERS.
MOM...
SOMEONE SAID NOTHING, AND SHOOK MY HAND.
I KNEW THAT HAND.
I DIDN'T WANT TO GET ANY BLOODSTAINS ON HER DRESS WE MADE TOGETHER.
HIRANO, IT'S FURUTA.
I TRIED NOT TO TOUCH FURUTA.
EVERYBODY FROM YOUR COMPANY CAME.
IT HURTS.

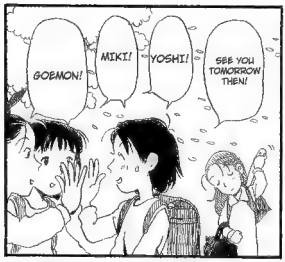

IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS,
ARE THE PEOPLE WHO
DROPPED THE ATOMIC BOMB ON ME
LOOKING AT ME AND GOING
"YES! WE GOT
ANOTHER ONE!"
LIKE THEY SHOULD BE?
MINAMI.
MY HAIR MIGHT'VE
FALLEN OUT. I
DON'T HAVE THE
ENERGY TO
CHECK... I'LL DO IT
TOMORROW.
TOMORROW.
IT'S ALL I CAN
DO TO HOLD THE
CHAMBERPOT.
THERE'S
ANOTHER WARM
LUMP IN MY
THROAT.
I THINK IT'S
NOT JUST
BLOOD, BUT A
PIECE OF ONE
OF MY ORGANS.
ARE THEY HAPPY?

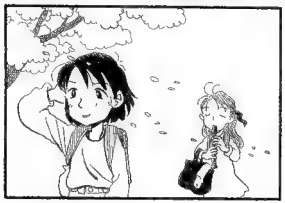

OH, THE WIND...
HAS THE EVENING CALM STOPPED?
HOW AWFUL...
I WAS SURE I WAS ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO SURVIVED.
MINAMI ...
ASAHI AND YOUR AUNT ARE HERE.
THIS STORY ISN'T OVER.
WORLD CONFERENCE BANNED ANTI-TOXINS FOR A THOUSAND YEARS IN HIROSHIMA
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES THE EVENING CALM ENDS, IT DOESN'T END.

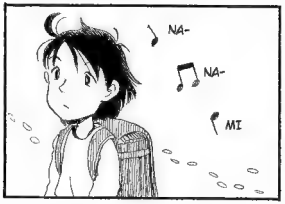
THE TOWN OF EVENING CALM ◆ END

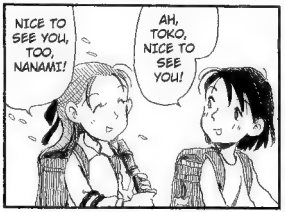
THE COUNTRY OF CHERRY BLOSSOMS (1)

桜の国(一)



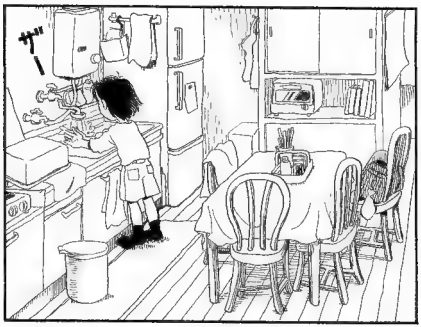


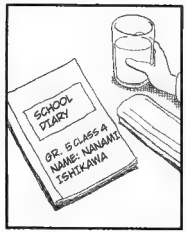




NOTE: GOEMON ISHIKAWA WAS A FAMOUS THIEF IN THE AZUCHI-MOMOYAMA PERIOD OF THE 16TH CENTURY

I DON'T KNOW YET!
WILL THEY CALL YOU GOEMON IN YOUR NEW CLASS?
RIGHT, RIGHT. WE WERE GIVEN AN ESSAY ABOUT "YOUR FUTURE DREAM" FOR HOMEWORK.
... OR RATHER GOEMON!
SURE, BUT DON'T SCRIBBLE IN MINE, OK?
CAUSE WE CAN LEAD EACH OTHER OUR TEXT-BOOKS.
MIGHT BE GOOD THAT WE'RE IN DIFFERENT CLASSES,
HMM, SO I GUESS WE'LL ALSO GET THAT...
...
I'M BACK!
WEL-COME BACK, TOKO!





8TH (WED)

6	国語	ふえ	こと。

EVENTS

GRANDMA IS AT THE HOSPITAL WITH MY YOUNGER BROTHER. PAPA IS AT WORK.
I PLAYED WITH TOKO TONE FROM CLASS 1

7TH (TUE)

6	図工	絵の具

EVENTS

GRANDMA IS AT THE HOSPITAL WITH MY YOUNGER BROTHER. PAPA IS AT WORK.
I HAVE BASEBALL PRACTICE.

10TH (FRI)

6	学級会

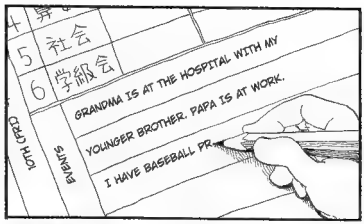
EVENTS

9TH (THU)

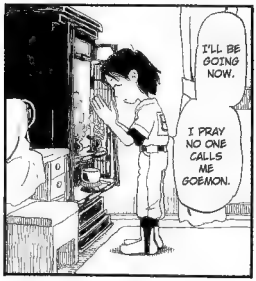
6	

EVENTS

GRANDMA IS AT THE HOSPITAL WITH MY YOUNGER BROTHER. PAPA IS AT WORK.
I HAVE BASEBALL PRACTICE.

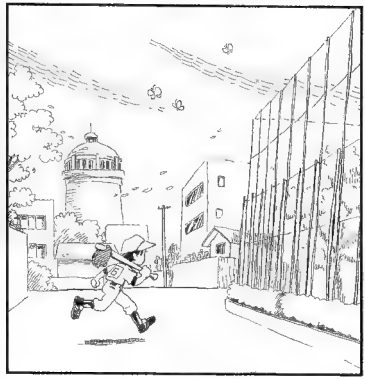

4 算
5 社会
6 学級会
EVENTS
GRANDMA IS AT THE HOSPITAL WITH MY
YOUNGER BROTHER. PAPA IS AT WORK.
I HAVE BASEBALL PR...

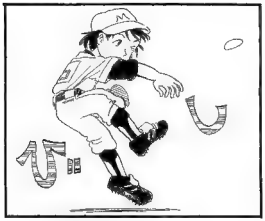
...

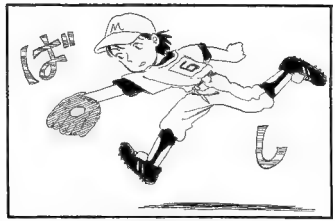

I'LL BE GOING NOW.
I PRAY NO ONE CALLS ME GOEMON.

6

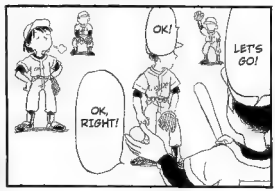
IT'S GONNA BE SHORT!
NEXT!
COME ON, HURRY!
OK!

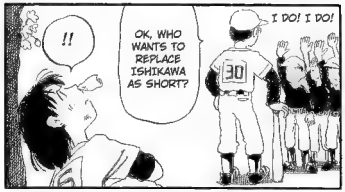


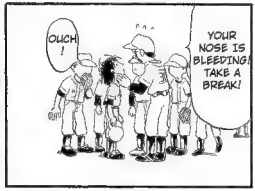




すこーん
AH, SORRY!


OK!
LET'S GO!
OK, RIGHT!


!!
OK, WHO WANTS TO REPLACE ISHIKAWA AS SHORT?
I DO! I DO!
30


OUCH!
YOUR NOSE IS BLEEDING! TAKE A BREAK!

COAC-H...
DON'T GET CARELESS!
NEXT ONE'S COMING!

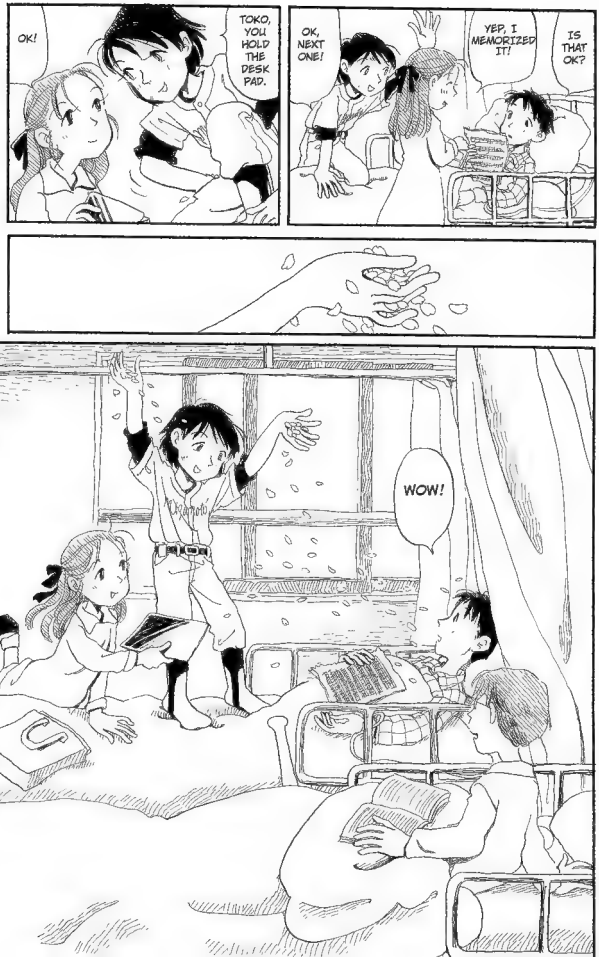
COME ON, RUN!
...

SEIBU RAILWAY
新井薬師前駅
ARAIYAKUSHI-MAE STATION
...
...
DON'T GET DISTRACTED!
HUH?
CAN YOU LEND ME 200 YEN?
TOKO!

WILL YOU COME, TOO?
HUH?
...
...
BYE THEN!
...
WELL, I WANT TO GO ON A TRIP...
IT'S OK... BUT WHAT FOR?
NANAMI, LOOK OVER THERE!
WHAT?
MY MOTHER WENT TO THAT SCHOOL.
I'LL TRY TO GET IN THERE AFTER PRIMARY SCHOOL, TOO.
IS THAT THEIR SCHOOL UNIFORM?
YEP.
THAT IS GOING TO LOOK GOOD ON YOU, TOKO!

MORGUE
...
IS THIS THE RIGHT WAY?
WAIT ...
WOW, THAT SOUNDS TOUGH...
ICU
BUT I'M NOT SURE I CAN GET IN. MY MOTHER'D BE DISAPPOINTED IF I DIDN'T...
I'M GLAD MY MOTHER'S NOT AROUND ANYMORE. EVEN WITH MY GRANDMA ONLY IT'S PRETTY SCARY...
...
YOU ARE SUCH A CUTE COUPLE!
THEN GO THAT WAY AND YOU'LL SEE THE RECEP-TION AT THE ENTRANCE.
EXCUSE ME, WE WANT TO VISIT A PATIENT.
202
石川風生
SHHH...
BUT SHE THOUGHT I WAS A BOY...
REALLY?
THAT NURSE WAS PRETTY, WASN'T SHE?

AH, BIG SIS!
NAGIO!
AH, HELLO!
GREAT! LOOK! OUR NEIGHBOR TOKO ALSO CAME!
SHE SAID SHE'LL BE BACK AFTER THE EXAMINATION.
WHERE'S GRANDMA?
...
HERE YOU GO.
THIS IS MY FAVORITE SONG.
CZERNY
HELLO...
CZERNY

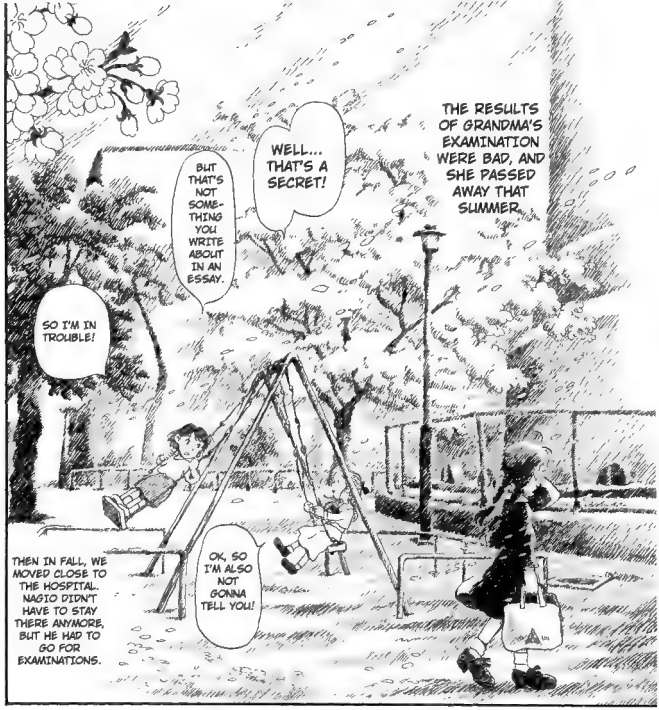

OK!
TOKO, YOU HOLD THE DESK PAD.
OK, NEXT ONE!
YEP, I MEMORIZED IT!
IS THAT OK?
WOW!

OK, NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!
BECAUSE YOU CAN'T COME TO SCHOOL, WE BROUGHT YOU SOME CHERRY BLOSSOMS!
わあ～
NANAMI
BIG SIS!
WOW!!
びびび
GRANDMA...

HUH?
ARE YOU OK, NANAMI?
AH, GRANDMA, SUDDENLY I FEEL DIZZY ...
YOUR NOSE WAS BLEED-ING, RIGHT?
WHAT IF NAGIO'S ASTHMA BECOMES WORSE?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME TO THE HOSPITAL!
AAH...
そゆう
SORRY, I WAS JUST KIDDING.
GRANDMA?
...
I GOT PLAYED...
IT'S ME THAT GOT DIZZY.
I KNOW THAT!

...
NA
NA-
MI
TO-
KO
FUJIMI HIRAMI
...
...
WELCOME BACK!
AH, I'M BUSY!
NANAMI
... PAPA?
...

SORRY, TOKO, YOU GOT SCOLDED, RIGHT?
NOPE. MY EYES ARE RED BECAUSE...
IS THAT A NEW STRATEGY? MY FATHER DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING...
HUH?
LEAVE THAT FOR LATER. LET'S WATCH THE GAME NOW!
OK...
BUT IT'S THE SAME!
YOU MUST BE GLAD HE DIDN'T CALL YOU GOEMON...
WHAT?
THE COACH SAID YOU HAVE TO RUN AROUND THE SCHOOL TEN TIMES FOR SKIPPING PRACTICE!
HEY, GOE!
ABOUT "YOUR FUTURE DREAM"?
I SPENT ALL NIGHT WRITING MY ESSAY.
YEP.
SO?
THEN I MISSED THE CHANCE TO HEAR ABOUT TOKO'S DREAM.
WHAT WILL YOU WRITE ABOUT?
LATER I FOUND OUT THAT HE COULDN'T AFFORD TO SCOLD ME.
IT WAS NOT THAT MY FATHER DIDN'T SCOLD ME.
ESSAY: FUTURE DREAM


THE RESULTS OF GRANDMA'S EXAMINATION WERE BAD, AND SHE PASSED AWAY THAT SUMMER.
WELL... THAT'S A SECRET!
BUT THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU WRITE ABOUT IN AN ESSAY.
SO I'M IN TROUBLE!
OK, SO I'M ALSO NOT GONNA TELL YOU!
THEN IN FALL, WE MOVED CLOSE TO THE HOSPITAL. NAGIO DIDN'T HAVE TO STAY THERE ANYMORE, BUT HE HAD TO GO FOR EXAMINATIONS.

SHUT UP OR I'LL KICK YOUR BUTT!!
YOU UGLY FOOL! GOEMON!
BY WINTER I HAD ALREADY GIVEN UP.
DON'T DO IT!

I AM NANAMI ISHIKAWA, WHO MOVED FROM NAKANO WARD.
MY SECRET DREAM WAS TO BECOME AN OBEDIENT GIRL LIKE TOKO...
I PLAY A LITTLE BASEBALL... NICE TO MEET YOU.

桜の国(二)

THE GIANTS ARE AFTER THEIR SECOND POINT
FIRST RUNNER, FIFTH INNING
THE 4TH BALL IS INSIDE STRAIGHT - HE HIT IT!
THE 3RD BALL
THIS ONE WAS A SLIDER.
HUH? ME AGAIN?
ARGH, WE'RE FINISHED!
THIS IS THE SECOND HIT FOR ETO
LEFT LINE - TIMELY TWO BASES!
HUH? HIROSHIMA ARE CHANGING THEIR PITCHER NOW?
OOPS!
...
I KNOW.
NAGIO, WASH THE DISHES THOROUGHLY, ALRIGHT?
ETO PLAYING GREAT'S FINE WITH ME, BUT IF THEY CHANGE TO ONE LEAGUE ONLY, THEN THE FIRST TEAM OUT'LL BE HIROSHIMA. RIGHT, DAD?
...

SHE HAS BECOME A NURSE!
I SAW HER THE OTHER DAY.
...
BY THE WAY ...
...
OLDER SISTER, YOU HAD A FRIEND CALLED TOKO TONE, RIGHT?
SHE DIDN'T GO TO THEIR JUNIOR COLLEGE.
HMM, I THOUGHT THEY ONLY HAD A LITERATURE DEPARTMENT IN HER SCHOOL.
IS THAT SO.
TELEPHONE CORP TOKYO MAIN BRANCH
MR. ASAHI ISHIKAWA
NEXT BANK ACCOUNT TRANSFER NOTIFICATION
AMOUNT FOR JUNE 2004
¥27,950
RATHER THAN THAT, LOOK AT THIS...
BUT YOU WERE GOOD FRIENDS, WEREN'T YOU?
WHEN I ASKED HIM, HE JUST SAID HE WENT FOR A WALK.
PLUS HE CAME BACK SUNBURNT AND COVERED IN DUST.
WHEN YOU WERE ON NIGHT SHIFT LAST WEEK, HE DIDN'T GET BACK FOR TWO DAYS.
YOU AREN'T AROUND MUCH, SO YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE NOTICED, BUT FATHER IS BEHAVING STRANGE LATELY.
THAT'S 5 TIMES MORE THAN LAST MONTH!

WELL, YEAH ...
I CAN COUNT ON YOU. AFTER ALL! YOU REA...Y ARE A DOCTOR IN THE MAKING... GOOD THING I MADE YOU STUDY ANOTHER YEAR TO ENTER UNIVERSITY.
PLUS HE'S JUST RETIRED FROM WORK... SHALL WE HAVE HIM EXAMINE HIMSELF AT THE HOSPITAL?
JOKES ASIDE, I THINK HE MIGHT BE LOSING HIS MIND.
HA-HA! THAT WOULD BE GREAT!
MAYBE HE FOUND A GIRLFRIEND?
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?
NO, THEY ARE TURNING THE GAME AROUND!
... HUH, WHAT WAS THAT?
...
PEACHES PEACHES
AH, I'LL BE RIGHT OVER.
PAPA, I SLICED SOME PEACHES, SO...
I HAVE A PROBLEM AT HOME...
NOT THANKS ...
ISHIKAWA, WANNA GO TO ROPPONGI HILLS TOMORROW?
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

ROPPONGI HI...S: A NEW URBAN CENTER AND ONE OF JAPAN'S LARGEST INTEGRATED PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS, LOCATED IN THE ROPPONGI DISTRICT OF MINATO, TOKYO

...
PAPA, DID YOU EAT THEM?
THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SOME MORE PEACHES...
HUH?
NO PROBLEM, I'M GOING OUT FOR A WALK ANYWAY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO, PAPA!
HUH?
SINCE YOU WANT TO EAT PEACHES, THEN I'LL GO BUY SOME.
AH, I GUESS I DID ... SORRY ABOUT THAT!
ガラガラ
OK... SEE YOU LATER THEN.
I'LL FOLLOW HIM.
NAGIO, PAPA WENT OUT FOR A WALK AGAIN...
...

...
WHAT'S UP WITH NAGIO? HE'S GLOOMIER THAN USUAL.
救急 労災指定
駅北口徒歩3分
産婦人科
小児科
内科
眼科
耳鼻咽喉科
SOUTH ENTRANCE
SH-H-H!!
NANAMI !?
THAT'S A STRANGE WALK. GOOD GRIEF...

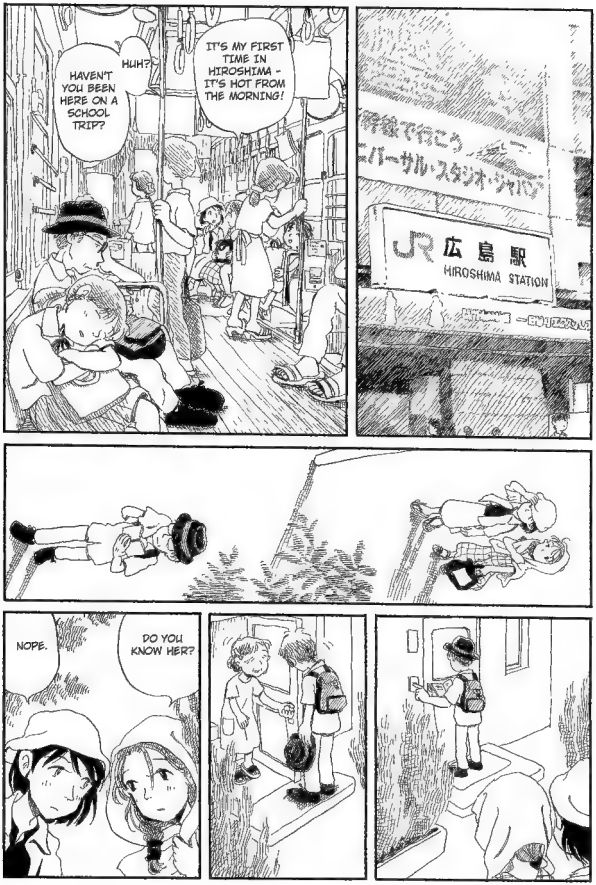
ISN'T THAT YOUR FATHER?
WELL, I'M JUST FOLLOWING SOMEONE DUE TO PROBLEMS AT HOME...
SO IT'S YOU, NANAMI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AH!! TOKO !?
THANK YOU...
HE BOUGHT A 220 YEN TICKET.
...
WAIT!
OK, GOTTA GO NOW...
NOT SO OFTEN...
DO YOU COME HERE OFTEN?
WE MET UNDER STRANGE CIRCUM-STANCES...
...
...
AH, RIGHT!
IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP, YOU'LL MISS THE TRAIN!

...
CAN I STAY WITH YOU A BIT LONGER?
NANAMI, SORRY BUT...
AH, TOKO, THIS IS YOUR STATION, RIGHT? THANK YOU!
THE NEXT STOP IS ARAI-YAKUSHIMAE
JR
東京駅
Tokyō Station
八重洲中央口
NO PROBLEM, OF COURSE...
HIROSHIMA STATION
...
LET'S GO BACK. WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY.
...
EXPRESS BUS STOP
2

WE ARE LUCKY THERE WERE SEATS LEFT.
HERE IS YOUR TICKET.
Office
TOMORROW IS YOUR DAY OFF, RIGHT?
EXCUSE ME.
WHAT?
HUH?
I'LL LEND YOU SOME.
...
ARE WE REALLY LUCKY?
THANK YOU...
I HAVE ANOTHER ONE.
IT'S OK, WEAR IT.
PHEW THAT WAS CLOSE.

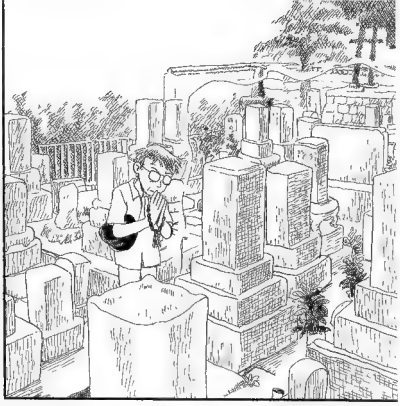
AH, YOUR BROTHER?
SO HOW IS IT, IS THAT MEDICAL INTERN PULLING EVERYONE'S LEGS?
AH, RIGHT, YOU ARE A NURSE NOW!
IT'S OK, THEY'LL THINK I'M WORKING THE NIGHT SHIFT...
DON'T YOU HAVE TO CALL HOME?
TOKO ...
EVERYONE LIKES HIM, I THINK. THEY CALL HIM GOEMON, TOO...
BUT I THINK HE IS JUST LIKE YOU!
WHAT!?
HE-HE-HE ...
AH, HIM TOO... WELL HE'S SINISTER LOOKING SO...
I WISH I DIDN'T MEET HER.
OK, LET'S SLEEP NOW CAUSE WE HAVE TO FOLLOW HIM TOMORROW.
YEAH, SURE.
YEP...
IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, NANAMI.
THAT'S WHY I KNEW IT WAS YOU EVEN AFTER 17 YEARS HAD PASSED.

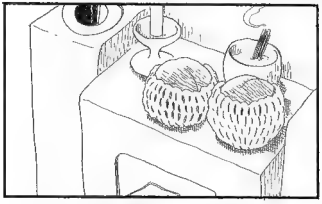
SMELL LIKE THAT SUNNY TOWN FILLED WITH CHERRY TREES.
GRANDMA, ARE YOU HURTING?
HER CLOTHES AND HER HAIR...
DID YOU TAKE YOUR MEDICINE?
... WHO ARE YOU?
AH... YOU ARE MIDORI'S FRIEND, RIGHT?
IT'S ME, NANAMI!
SORRY, MIDORI HASN'T GOT BACK YET.
WHERE WERE YOU?
... SO?
GRANDMA...
HOW DID YOU SURVIVE?

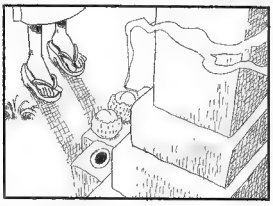

IT'S MY FIRST TIME IN HIROSHIMA - IT'S HOT FROM THE MORNING!
HUH?
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN HERE ON A SCHOOL TRIP?
JR 広島駅
HIROSHIMA STATION
DO YOU KNOW HER?
NOPE.

...
...
...
...
OK, NANAMI, WHEN THINGS SETTLE DOWN A BIT, CALL ME ON THIS NUMBER, OK?
YEP, THAT'S THE ONE!
YOU CAN GO BY THAT TRAIN, RIGHT!?
OH YEAH, I REMEMBER! I'M HERE ANYWAYS, SO I'LL GO TO THE PEACE PARK!
寺
... WELL.

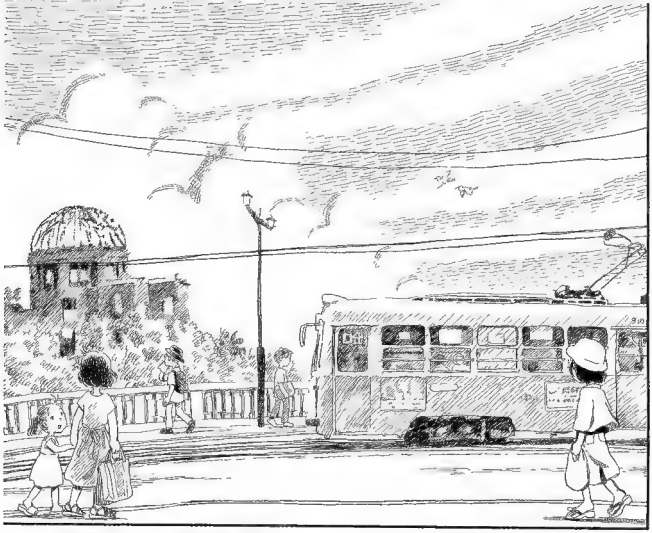
...
昭和十七年八月六日 錦子 三十七
昭和十七年八月六日 富良夫 十九
昭和二十年八月十日 珠緒 十四
昭和五十年一月十日 行夫 五十

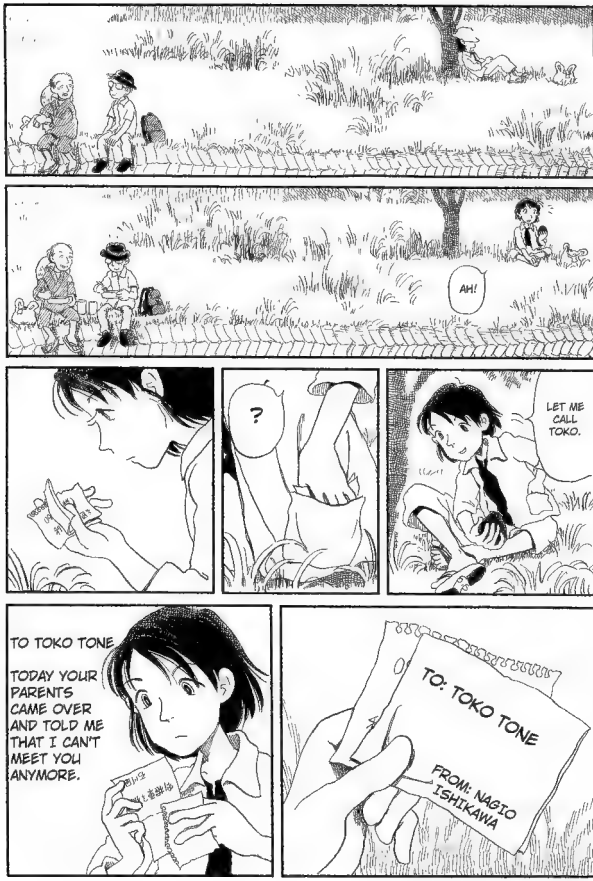


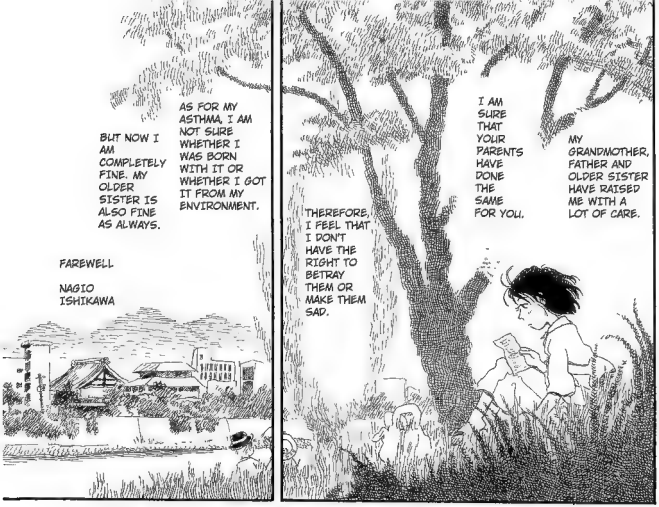


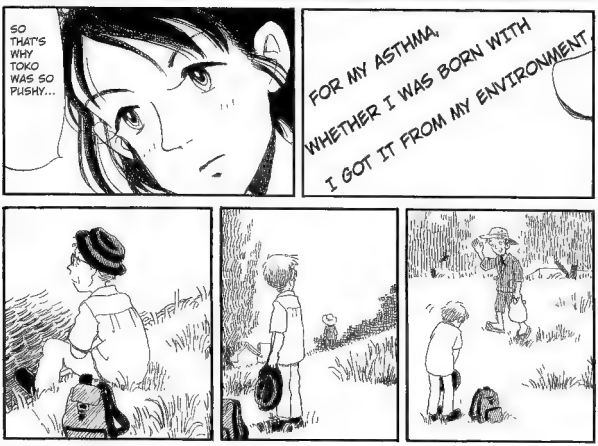


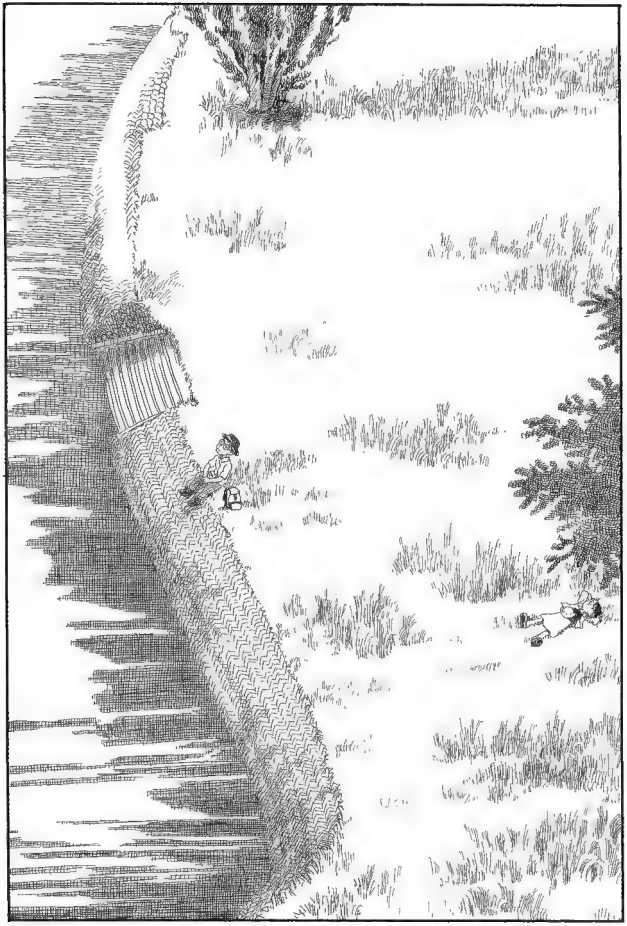
AUGUST 7TH 1945
TENMA 41 YRS OLD
AUGUST 6TH 1945
MIDORI 12 YRS OLD
OCTOBER 11TH 1945
KASUMI 15 YRS OLD
SEPTEMBER 8TH 1955
MINAMI 23 YRS OLD
AUGUST 27TH 1987
FUJIMI 80 YRS OLD
HIRANO
FAMILY
TOMB




AH!
?
LET ME CALL TOKO.
TO TOKO TONE
TODAY YOUR PARENTS CAME OVER AND TOLD ME THAT I CAN'T MEET YOU ANYMORE.
TO: TOKO TONE
FROM: NAGIO ISHIKAWA


BUT NOW I AM COMPLETELY FINE. MY OLDER SISTER IS ALSO FINE AS ALWAYS.
AS FOR MY ASTHMA, I AM NOT SURE WHETHER I WAS BORN WITH IT OR WHETHER I GOT IT FROM MY ENVIRONMENT.
FAREWELL
NAOIO ISHIKAWA
THEREFORE, I FEEL THAT I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO BETRAY THEM OR MAKE THEM SAD.
I AM SURE THAT YOUR PARENTS HAVE DONE THE SAME FOR YOU.
MY GRANDMOTHER, FATHER AND OLDER SISTER HAVE RAISED ME WITH A LOT OF CARE.


SO THAT'S WHY TOKO WAS SO PUSHY...
FOR MY ASTHMA, WHETHER I WAS BORN WITH I GOT IT FROM MY ENVIRONMENT



AUNTIE!
LONG TIME NO SEE, MOTHER!
YOU CAME FAST, ASAHI!
EXCUSE ME, WHERE IS FUJIMI HIRANO'S HOUSE?
AH, DID YOU SHOW HIM THE WAY, KYO?
YEP.
AH, THANK YOU!
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M KYOKA OTA.
WELCOME HERE!
AH! UMMM ...
NICE TO MEET YOU. MY NAME IS ASAHI ISHIKAWA, AND I WILL BE STAYING HERE FROM NOW ON.
...
WHEN DO YOU START SCHOOL?
THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW IS THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY.
WAS THAT NO GOOD?
NO, IT WAS FINE!

HERE YOU GO, KYO, SOME NOSHIUME.
AH, THANK YOU!
HERE YOU GO, AUNTIE!
GOT IT!
BUT YOU HAVE TO PEEL OFF THE SKIN BEFORE EATING!
...
IT'S A SOUVENIR FROM MITO, SO SHARE IT WITH MOTOHARU, OK?
DOES SHE LIVE NEARBY?
YEP. SHE COMES TO HELP ME LIKE THIS SOMETIMES.
THANK YOU!
I WONDER IF HE HAS A BASEBALL GLOVE...
AH, SO SHE HAS AN OLDER BROTHER ...
SHE LIVES ALONE WITH HER OLDER BROTHER, WHO JUST GRADUATED FROM JUNIOR HIGH, SO I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER.
SHE IS CARELESS LIKE THAT, PLUS SHE LOST HER FATHER RECENTLY.

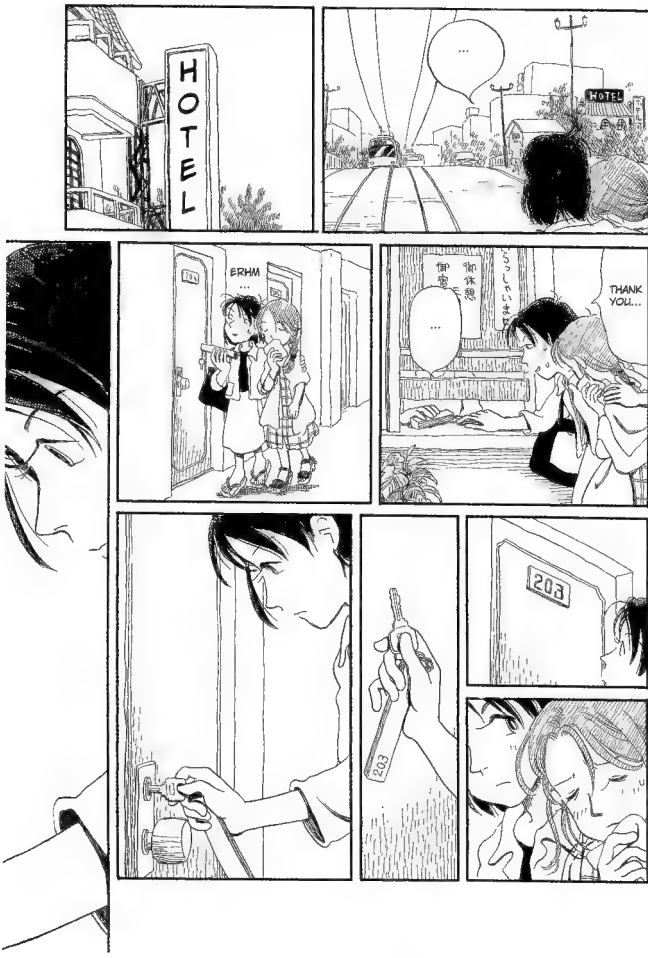
HA-HA-HA ...
MR. ASAHI, PLEASE TEACH MY BROTHER BASEBALL AND HELP HIM GET INTO THE HIROSHIMA TEAM!
WOW, YOU ARE GOOD, KYO!
USING CLOTH IS FINE, RIGHT?
SEWING WOULD DO WELL TO FIX IT.
RIGHT, RIGHT!
ALRIGHT, I'M GOING OUT FOR A WHILE NOW.
...
INDEED... MY DAUGHTER WAS CLUMSY, SO I COULDN'T COUNT ON HER ...
MOTHER, YOU'VE GOT A GOOD DISCIPLE!
DO YOU REMEMBER MY OLDER SISTER, WHO USED TO LIVE HERE BEFORE?
BECAUSE SHE IS MY MOTHER. ALTHOUGH OUR SURNAMES ARE NOT THE SAME...
MR. ASAHI
WHY DO YOU CALL HER "MOTHER"?
AH, IS THAT SO?
YOU SPEAK JUST LIKE THE PEOPLE ON TV!
YOU SPEAK A DIFFERENT DIALECT.
YEP, BUT STILL...

YEP. I HAD DETENTION FOR SOCIAL STUDIES YESTERDAY AND MATH TODAY.
EVEN LATER THAN A COLLEGE STUDENT!
HEY!
YOU HAVE BEEN COMING BACK LATE RECENTLY.
WOW, WHAT A LUMP!
THEY HIT ME SO MUCH WITH THE BAMBOO STICK THAT I HAVE GROWN TALLER.
EVERYONE THINKS I'M STUPID BECAUSE OF THAT.
...
WHEN I WAS A BABY, I WAS EXPOSED TO THE RADIATION OF THE ATOMIC BOMB.
... I THINK IT'S WRONG TO JUDGE THAT EVERYTHING IS CAUSED BY THE ATOMIC BOMB.
...
YEP.
YOUR TEACHERS, TOO?
EVERYONE!
WHO SAID THAT?

...
I'LL TEACH YOU.
COME ON, SHOW ME YOUR TEXTBOOK.
...
I'LL TEACH YOU.
COME ON, GIVE IT TO ME.
WELL, BEING TOLD THIS AFTER HAVING BEEN MADE TO STUDY SO MUCH ALREADY...
THINK SHE GOT ANGRY?
I SEE.
SHE UNDERSTANDS, EVEN IF YOU DON'T SPEAK IN DIALECT.
HOW BAD!
SORRY, BUT WHEN YOU SAY IT, IT SOUNDS LIKE HIGH-GRADE APPLES AND ORANGES.
HEY, GET SERIOUS!
TARO BOUGHT 3 APPLES. HANAKO BOUGHT 3 ORANGES...
HE HE HE.
...

TOKO! I'M HERE!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
YOU CAN TELL IF IT'S HIGH-QUALITY OR NOT BY SOLVING THE PROBLEM!
YEA
YEA
YEA
YEA
CALCULATE THE SIZE OF THE AREA LIMITED BY THE S LINE SHOWN ON GRAPH 6-6...
KYO, HAVE YOU FALLEN ASLEEP?
AH, I FEEL LIKE I'M IN TOKYO...

ONLY THAT? BUT YOU WERE SO EXCITED EARLIER...
THE PEACE MUSEUM ...
WHERE DID YOU LOOK AROUND ?
I STOLE THEM.
HERE! THERE IS A PEACH, TOO!
...
DID YOU EAT ALREADY? I BOUGHT YOU A RICE BALL.
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
AAH!
AARGH!
ARE YOU OK, TOKO?
...

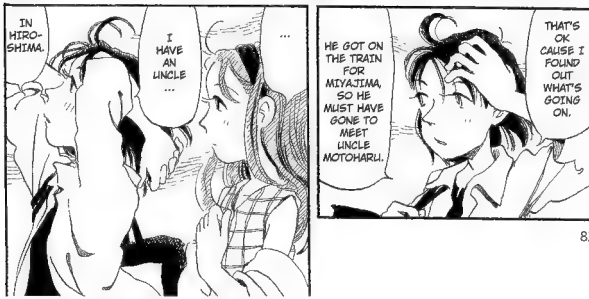

HOTEL
...
HOTEL
ERHM
...
THANK YOU...
203
203

... NAMI ...
WELCOME BACK... NA...
MOTHER ...?
NO ...
HUH?
TAKE IT OFF ... I'LL WASH IT.
IT'S OK, I'LL DO IT...
AH...
I'M SORRY, NANAMI ...

I FAILED AS A NURSE I GUESS ...
...
JUST TO THINK THAT THEY WERE MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS ...
I DON'T THINK SO.
I GUESS THAT IS THE NATURAL REACTION FOR EVERYONE.
...
...
WHY DON'T YOU WEAR THAT?
THERE'S ALSO A DRYER, RIGHT ...?
ERHM...
TOKO, DO YOU COME TO SUCH PLACES OFTEN?
WELL, FROM TIME TO TIME ...
AGIO IKAWA

NO, I DIDN'T NEED TO KNOW THIS...
AH!
WE ARE HERE ANYWAYS, SO WHY DON'T WE TAKE A BATH?
IT'S GLASS-SIDED, YOU KNOW...
YOU SHOULD HAVE TAKEN A NAP, TOO, NANAMI.
WELL, STAYING LONG IS ADDICTIVE, YOU KNOW...

I'M SORRY ...
SEEMS WE'VE LOST YOUR FATHER.
BUT I ENVY YOU ...
BOTH YOU AND YOUR BROTHER HAVE LONG LEGS!
TALKING ABOUT NAGIO IS EVEN WORSE...
PULLY LOOKING AT MY LEGS


IN HIRO-SHIMA.
I HAVE AN UNCLE ...
...
THAT'S OK CAUSE I FOUND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.
HE GOT ON THE TRAIN FOR MIYAJIMA, SO HE MUST HAVE GONE TO MEET UNCLE MOTOHARU.

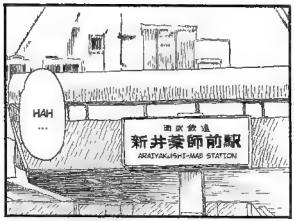
FUTABA CLOTHING SHOP
HIRING NOW!
A SEAMSTRESS
HOUSING PROVIDED
FUTABA
MY BROTHER IS GETTING MARRIED, SO I'M THINKING OF BECOMING INDEPENDENT ...
EST. 1950
CLOTHING SHOP FUTABA
IS THAT SO ...
SO WHY DON'T YOU COME TO LIVE WITH US, KYO?
HMMM ...
WE HAVE A SEWING MACHINE ...
PLUS YOU'D HELP MOTHER A LOT.
I'M REALLY GRATEFUL TO YOU.
SEE, I HAVE BEEN SEPARATED FROM MY MOTHER FOR SUCH A LONG TIME, SO IT HAS BEEN AWKWARD, BUT YOU STILL VISIT US.

...
...
SEE ...
WELL, I ... ERHM ...
SO YOU WANT TO MARRY AN ATOMIC BOMB VICTIM?
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ... GOOD NIGHT.
WHY AM I STILL ALIVE?
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO TELL YOUR FOSTER PARENTS?
WHY DO YOU THINK WE EVACUATED YOU FROM HIROSHIMA AND PUT YOU UP FOR ADOPTION?
MOTHER ...
I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANY MORE PEOPLE I KNOW DIE BECAUSE OF THE ATOMIC BOMB...

...
...
...
AH, HE'S GETTING ON ANOTHER BUS...
I WAS ON MY WAY TO MEET SOMEONE LAST NIGHT.
BUT I GOT SCARED, SO I CAME WITH YOU INSTEAD.
NANAMI, I ...
ALRIGHT THEN.
SO WE DON'T NEED TO MASK OURSELVES!

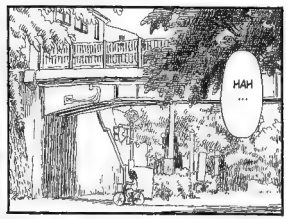
I'M SURE THAT BOTH MY MOTHER AND FATHER WOULD LIKE HIROSHIMA IF THEY CAME HERE.
BUT...
I'M GLAD I CAME HERE. NEXT TIME I WANT TO TAKE MY PARENTS WITH ME AS WELL.
...
...
YOU SLEEPING?
ARE YOU ASLEEP?
TOKO ...
AND BY THE TIME MY GRANDMA DIED AT THE AGE OF 80, NO ONE EVEN SAID THE ATOMIC BOMB CAUSED HER DEATH.
NO ONE TOLD ME WHETHER OR NOT MY MOTHER'S DEATH AT THE AGE OF 38 WAS DUE TO THE ATOMIC BOMB.
JUST LIKE...
IN SPITE OF ALL THAT, EVERYONE LABELED ME AND NAOTO THE VICTIMS OF THE ATOMIC BOMB WHO MIGHT DIE SOON?

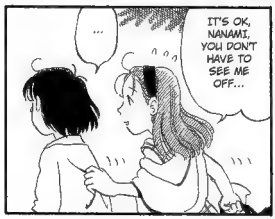
ME, DECIDELY WANTING TO FORGET EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR TOWN, INCLUDING THE PEOPLE.
AH, HELLO ...

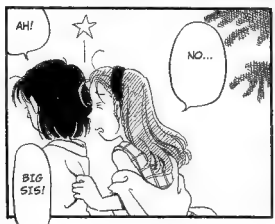

HAH...
新井薬師前駅
ARAIYAKUSHI-MAE STATION

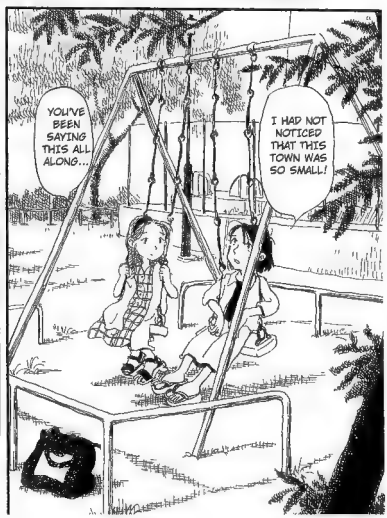
JR
東京駅
Tōkyō Station

水の神公園
HAH...


HAH...

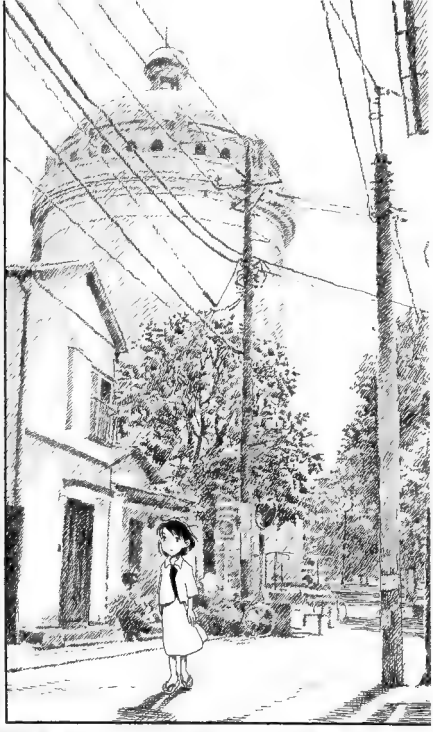

...
IT'S OK, NANAMI, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEE ME OFF...

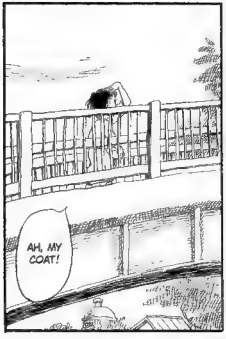

AH!
NO...
BIG SIS!

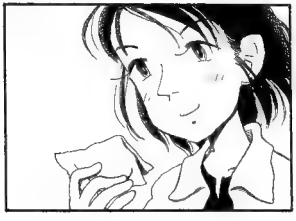

YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THIS ALL ALONG...
I HAD NOT NOTICED THAT THIS TOWN WAS SO SMALL!

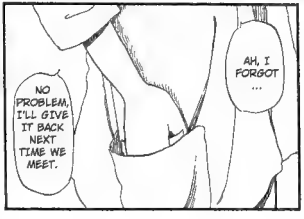
WHAT !?
OK, I'LL BE GOING BACK HOME NOW. NAGIO, GIVE HER BACK THE MONEY I OWE HER.
WHY DID YOU CALL ME UP SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?
I FOUND A PINE CONE!
...
WHERE DID YOU STAY?
YOU DIDN'T GO BACK HOME.
HANDED IN EXPLANATION
WAY WERE YOU HANGING OUT WITH MY SIS?
WHERE WERE YOU?
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?
YOU RETARD !
INDEED...

I SEE ...
THE TOWN FELT SMALL BECAUSE THE CHERRY TREES HAD GROWN BIGGER...




AH, MY COAT!




AH, I FORGOT ...
NO PROBLEM, I'LL GIVE IT BACK NEXT TIME WE MEET.

YOU ARE WATCHING ME OVER, RIGHT MOTHER?
TO: TOKO TONE
FROM: NAOTO ISHIKAWA
MOTHER ...

I SEE ...
I'M THINK-ING OF TAKING MY MOTHER AS WELL.

AH, ASAHI, HAVE YOU BEEN TRANSFERRED?
YES, TO TOKYO.

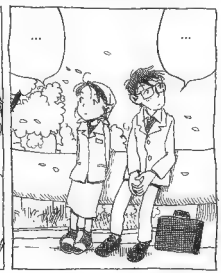
I ALSO WANT TO TAKE A WIFE WITH ME TO TOKYO...

...
...

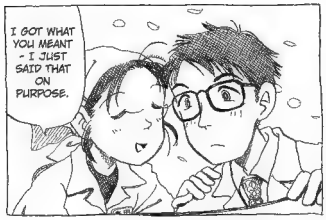
MY MOTHER EVEN SAID IT WOULD BE BEST TO STAY CLOSE TO EACH OTHER IF WE ARE JUST GOING TO WORRY ANYWAYS....

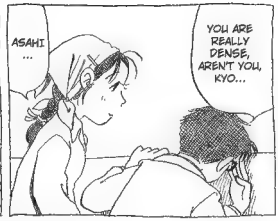
I'M ALREADY 34, SO...
WELL ...

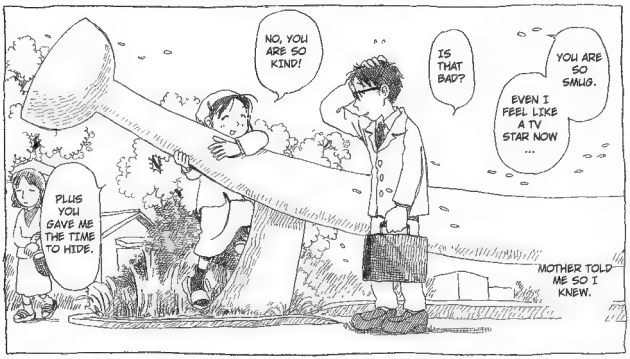
HMM, NO ONE CAME ...
...

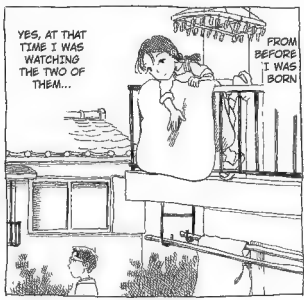

...
...

I'LL MARRY THE WOMAN WHO COMES IN MY SIGHT IN THE NEXT 3 SECONDS.
SO ...

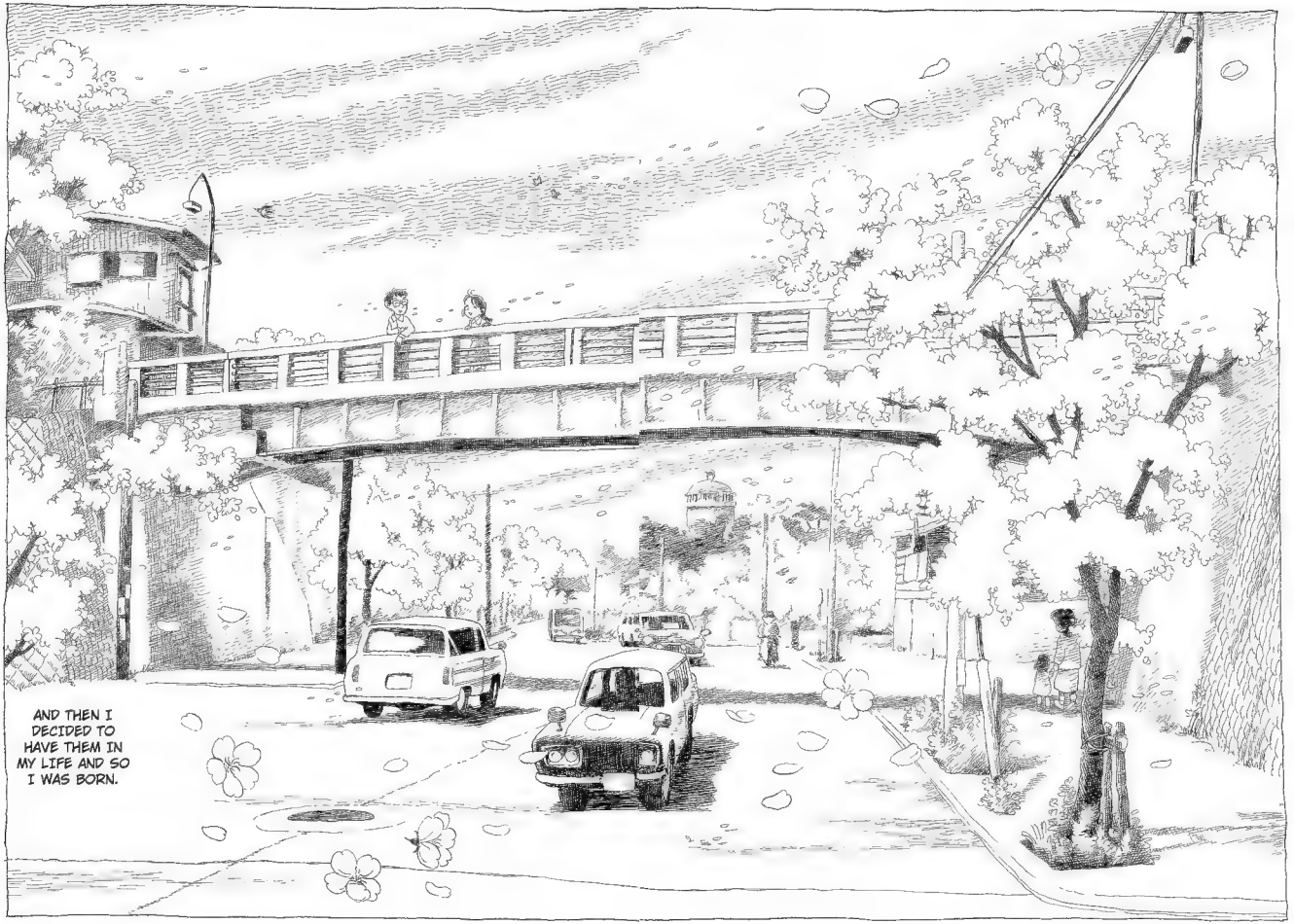

I GOT WHAT YOU MEANT - I JUST SAID THAT ON PURPOSE.


ASAHI ...
YOU ARE REALLY DENSE, AREN'T YOU, KYO...


NO, YOU ARE SO KIND!
IS THAT BAD?
YOU ARE SO SMUG.
EVEN I FEEL LIKE A TV STAR NOW ...
PLUS YOU GAVE ME THE TIME TO HIDE.
MOTHER TOLD ME SO I KNEW.


YES, AT THAT TIME I WAS WATCHING THE TWO OF THEM...
FROM BEFORE I WAS BORN

BUT I KNEW THIS ATMOSPHERE ALREADY.


AND THEN I DECIDED TO HAVE THEM IN MY LIFE AND SO I WAS BORN.

あふ…
YAWN
EXCUSE ME.
SORRY, I WILL BE ABOUT AN HOUR LATE.
WHEW
新井薬師前駅
ARAIYAKUSHI-MAE STATION
BECAUSE EVERYONE THINKS YOU ARE LOSING YOUR MIND...
AH ...
IT'S NO GOOD BEING OLD ...
WHAT'S THAT?
I GOT IT!!
AND THAT'S NOT BECAUSE I'M LOSING MY MIND!!
I THOUGHT IF I TOLD YOU ALL THEN I'D FORGET THE THINGS YOU WOULD ALL ASK ME TO GET FOR YOU...
DON'T BE A FOOL.
DID YOU PLAN TO HIDE THAT FROM US?
BUT FATHER, WHY DID YOU GO TO HIROSHIMA WITHOUT TELLING US?

SHE LOOKS LIKE OUR MOTHER, DOESN'T SHE?
REALLY?
AH, THE GIRL WHO WAS OUR NEIGHBOR BEFORE...
I WENT WITH TOKO TONE.
...
NAGIO AND TOKO MIGHT GET MARRIED.
FATHER ...
NO, NANAMI ...
WHAT DO YOU THINK I WAS DOING IN HIROSHIMA ?
...
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE CRYING! I'M SIMILAR TO MY FATHER SO I'LL NEVER GET A BOYFRIEND!!
YOU ARE 28 ALREADY, BUT YOU STILL DO NOTHING ON WEEKENDS...
I WORRY ABOUT YOU MORE THAN ABOUT NAGIO.

THIS YEAR IS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS OLDER SISTER'S DEATH, WHO LIVED THE LONGEST AFTER HIM.
THAT'S WHY HE MET HIS SISTER'S FRIEND, WHO TOLD HIM ALOT ABOUT HER.
I HAVE A FEELING YOU ARE JUST LIKE HIS OLDER SISTER...
IF YOU DON'T FIND YOUR HAPPINESS, HIS OLDER SISTER WILL CRY IN HEAVEN.
SO, DO YOU WANT ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO ONE OF MY MATCH-MAKING PARTY BUDDIES.
WHAT!?
I DIDN'T NEED TO KNOW THIS ...

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IWANAMISHINSHO

"BLACK RAIN" MASUJI IBUSE SHINCHOBUNKO
*THIS MOVIE WAS ALSO GOOD.

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HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI ATOMIC BOMB PHOTOS -
PAINTINGS 2/3

"HIRAKU 60 JU-SHI NEN ZUSETSU SENSO HIROSHIMA ICHI-SHI MACHI TO KURASHI NO 60 JU-NEN" (60TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING, ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF HIROSHIMA AFTER WORLD WAR II, FIFTY YEARS
OF „LIVING IN THE CITY) HIROSHIMA CITY

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EXPLANATIONS

P8 WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST A&H BOMBS ONE OF THE BIG EVENTS IN JAPAN IN 1955. THE 1ST EVENT WAS HELD IN HIROSHIMA ON AUGUST 6TH.

P9 OTOMISAN LYRICS: HACHIRO KASUGA. A POPULAR SONG FROM 1954. BY THE WAY, AS FOR MINAMI GOING TO WORK BAREFOOT, THIS WAS TAKEN FROM HACHIRO KASUGA'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY WHICH I ONCE READ IN MY FATHER'S COLLECTION, BASED ON A STORY TOLD BY HIS WIFE ABOUT WHEN THEY WERE POOR.

P9/71 TOWN OF EVENING CALM THE SETTING FOR "TOWN OF EVENING CALM" IS HIROSHIMA, 1955. MINAMI AND CO. LIVE IN AREA CALLED AIOI STREET (DIFFERENT FROM THE CURRENT AIOI STREET), TO THE NORTH OF THE GENBAKU DOME, OR THE "HIROSHIMA PEACE MEMORIAL". ALSO KNOWN AS THE "ATOMIC SLUM", MANY PEOPLE WHO LIVED THERE LOST THEIR HOMES AND LAND TO THE ATOMIC BOMB AND THE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AFTER THE ATOMIC BOMB WAS DROPPED. AFTER THAT, THE AREA WAS ABANDONED IN 1977, AND IT IS NOW A GREEN AREA LIKE ON P70.

P13 KANAYAMA, HASEGAWA BOTH ARE HIROSHIMA CARP TEAM MEMBERS. IN 1955, JIRO KANAYAMA STOLE A TOTAL OF 400 BASES BY SEPTEMBER, AND RYOHEI HASEGAWA HAD REACHED 100 WINS BY AUGUST. MINAMI AND UCHIKOSHI AREN'T NECESSARILY BASEBALL FANS, BUT BOTH THEN AND NOW, ANYONE FROM HIROSHIMA FEELS CLOSE TO THE CARP AND LOVES THEM. HOWEVER, BACK THEN, THERE WEREN'T AS MANY LIVE TV AND RADIO BROADCASTS OF BASEBALL GAMES, AND MOST PEOPLE FOUND OUT ABOUT GAME RESULTS THE NEXT DAY IN THE NEWSPAPER, AND EVEN SO THE FANS WOULD GO CRAZY, SHOWING HOW THE PEOPLE OF THE TIME HAD GREAT IMAGINATIONS.

P15 MARILYN MONROE SHE CAME TO HIROSHIMA WITH HER HUSBAND IN 1954. HER HUSBAND, THE BASEBALL PLAYER JOE DIMAGGIO, HELPED COACH THE CARP.

P16 SONG GAME MORE ACCURATELY, THE "MEISHOKU SONG GAME". IT WAS A POPULAR FRIDAY NIGHT RADIO PROGRAM.

P18 RIKI DOZAN ON AUGUST 19TH, 1955, THERE WAS A PRO WRESTLING MATCH AT THE PREFECTURAL ATHLETIC STADIUM. ON THAT DAY, AZUMAFUJI, KOKICHI ENDO, ORTEGA, CURTIS, AND ORTON ALSO PARTICIPATED.

P2/21 HEIWA OHASHI/WEST HEIWA OHASHI THESE BRIDGES WERE BUILT IN 1951, DESIGNED BY ISAMU NOGUCHI, A JAPANESE-AMERICAN, AT THE SOUTH SIDE OF PEACE PARK. I FOUND THIS OUT LATER, BUT HEIWA OHASHI IS CALLED "TO LIVE (FORMERLY: TO BUILD)" AND WEST HEIWA OHASHI IS CALLED "TO DIE (FORMERLY: TO DEPART)". WITH THEIR VERY WESTERN-STYLE LOOK, THEY APPARENTLY WEREN'T VERY POPULAR AT THE TIME.

P22 SHIN-OHASHI THIS IS THE FORMER FORM OF WEST HEIWA OHASHI. IT'S ACTUALLY A MUCH BIGGER BRIDGE.

P27 GENBAKU DOME ONE THING I NOTICED WHILE DRAWING THIS MANGA WAS THAT WHILE SEARCHING FOR PHOTOS TAKEN RIGHT AFTER THE BOMB WAS DROPPED, THE GENBAKU DOME WAS IN RUINS AND WAS SMALL. MANY PEOPLE WANTED TO HAVE IT TORN DOWN, SINCE IT MAKES THEM REMEMBER THAT DAY, BUT IN THE END, IT WAS DECIDED IN 1966 THAT IT WOULD BE PRESERVED IN ORDER TO TEACH FUTURE GENERATIONS ABOUT THE HORRORS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IN MINAMI'S TIME, IT WAS STILL JUST AN ABANDONED BUILDING, BUT I DREW IT AS A SYMBOL OF THE COURAGE OF THE MANY BOMB VICTIMS WHO AFTER GREAT PERSONAL CONFLICT DECIDED TO PRESERVE IT.

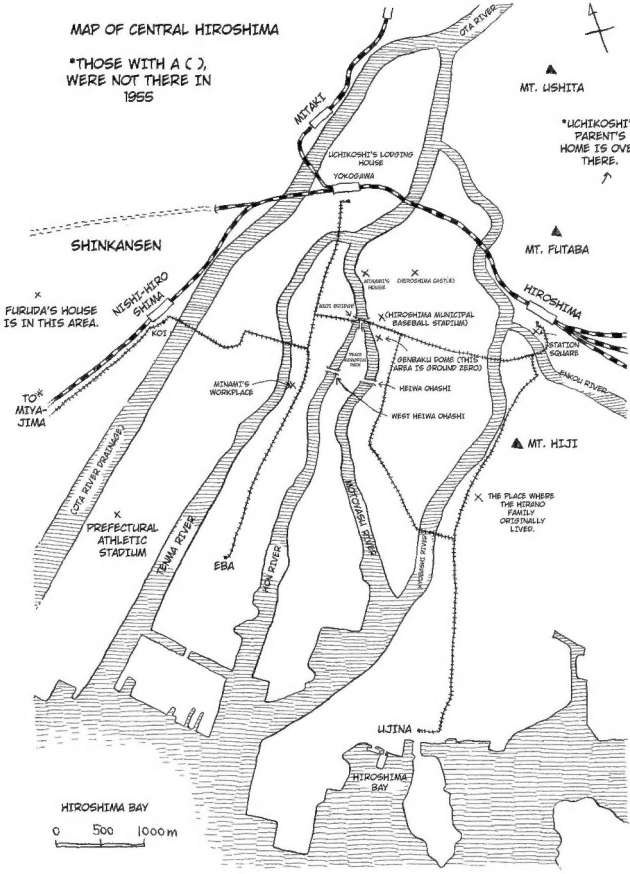
P30 BECAUSE THE MOON IS SO BLUE LYRICS: TSUZUKO SUGAWARA. A POPULAR SONG FROM MAY 1955. THE LYRICS UCHIKOSHI ARE SINGING ARE FROM THE FIRST PART, AND THE PART MINAMI SINGS IS FROM THE THIRD PART.

P34 ABOUT RADIOACTIVE DAMAGE SYMPTOMS OF ATOMIC-BOMB DISEASE OFTEN APPEAR YEARS AFTER EXPOSURE. THE REASON MINAMI HAD TO DEAL WITH THIS MUST HAVE BEEN BECAUSE SHE FELL VICTIM TO THE BOMB TEN YEARS PRIOR. IT WAS A BIT LACKING IN EXPLANATION, SO I'LL EXPLAIN A BIT MORE. BY THE WAY, WHEN COMING FROM MITO TO HIROSHIMA, THE AUNT AND YOUNGER BROTHER ARRIVED IN THE MORNING BY EXPRESS TRAIN, AND THE EVENING CALM ENDS AT NIGHT. BUT MINAMI CAN'T SEE AND MUST'VE THOUGHT IT WAS NIGHTTIME...

P37 WATER TOWER "COUNTRY OF CHERRY BLOSSOMS (1)" IS SET IN NAKANO WARD, TOKYO, IN 1987. IN THE BACKGROUND IS THE "WATER TOWER", A WATER TANK, WHICH WAS ERECTED IN THE BEGINNING OF THE SHOWA ERA. P39 THIS LAND BRIDGE IS "KATAYAMABASHI". IT STANDS ON THE CHERRY BLOSSOM-LINED NAKANO-DORI.

P54 PRO BASEBALL "COUNTRY OF CHERRY BLOSSOMS (2)" IS THE STORY OF THE SUMMER OF 2004. THE TOPIC OF A ONE-LEAGUE SYSTEM WAS SUDDENLY BROUGHT UP, AND THEY'RE REALLY GOING AT IT. BY THE WAY, THE HIROSHIMA CARP HAVEN'T BEEN DOING VERY WELL FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS...

P66 GRAVE IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY IN HIROSHIMA, YOU'LL SEE THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF GRAVES LINED UP WITH "AUGUST 6TH, 1945" WRITTEN ON THEM. ALSO, THERE ARE MANY NAMES WHICH HAD BEEN ENGRAVED IN THE FOLLOWING MONTHS, WHICH BREAKS ONE'S HEART.


MAP OF CENTRAL HIROSHIMA
*THOSE WITH A ( ), WERE NOT THERE IN 1955
OTA RIVER
MT. USHITA
*UCHIKOSHI'S PARENT'S HOME IS OVER THERE.
MITAKI
UCHIKOSHI'S LODGING HOUSE
YOKOGAWA
SHINKANSEN
MT. FUTABA
NISHI-HIRO SHIMA
FURUIA'S HOUSE IS IN THIS AREA.
KOI
HIROSHIMA
(HIROSHIMA MUNICIPAL BASEBALL STADIUM)
STATION SQUARE
GENBAKU DOME (THIS AREA IS GROUND ZERO)
ENKOU RIVER
TO* MIYA-JIMA
MINAMI'S WORKPLACE
HEIWA OHASHI
WEST HEIWA OHASHI
MT. HIJI
OTA RIVER TRAMWAY
PREFECTURAL ATHLETIC STADIUM
MOTOYASU RIVER
THE PLACE WHERE THE HIRANO FAMILY ORIGINALLY LIVED.
TENMA RIVER
EBA
HON RIVER
UJINA
HIROSHIMA BAY
HIROSHIMA BAY
0 500 1000 m

AFTERWORD

TWO SUMMERS AGO, I PASSED THE DRAFT OF MY SERIAL TO MY EDITOR AND WE WERE TALKING ABOUT GOING BACK HOME AND OTHER MINDLESS CHATTER, AND I WAS ASKED "HOW ABOUT WRITING A STORY ABOUT HIROSHIMA?" FOR A SECOND, I THOUGHT "AWESOME! I CAN USE ALL THE HIROSHIMA DIALECT I WANT!", BUT THEN I REALIZED THAT THE EDITOR MEANT "HIROSHIMA" AS IN "THE PLACE WHERE THE BOMB WAS DROPPED", AS OPPOSED TO JUST THE CITY OF "HIROSHIMA", AND I IMMEDIATELY HAD SECOND THOUGHTS. THIS IS BECAUSE WHEN I WAS A STUDENT, I HAD BEEN TO THE HIROSHIMA PEACE SITE SEVERAL TIMES AND HAD INCONVENIENCED THOSE AROUND ME BY ALMOST FAINTING AT THE ATOMIC BOMB VIDEOS, AND SO I HAD MADE A POINT OF AVOIDING "ATOMIC BOMB"-RELATED MATERIAL.

BUT THE REASON I THINK I DECIDED TO WRITE IT AFTER ALL WAS BECAUSE I FELT TOTALLY REMOVED FROM THAT PROBLEM, OR RATHER, I WAS TRYING TO STAY REMOVED FROM IT, AND HAD ALWAYS FELT SOMEWHERE IN MY HEART THAT THAT WAS UNNATURAL AND IRRESPONSIBLE. I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN HIROSHIMA, BUT I'M NOT A BOMB SURVIVOR NOR A SECOND-GENERATION BOMB SURVIVOR. I DON'T HAVE ANY RELATIVES WHO CAN TELL ME ABOUT THEIR BOMB EXPERIENCES. TO ME, THE ATOMIC BOMB WAS A TRAGEDY FROM THE DISTANT PAST, AND AT THE SAME TIME, "SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED TO OTHER FAMILIES". I HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT ALL I NEEDED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS OLD STORY WAS THAT IT WAS SCARY, AND THAT IT WAS MAINLY A FORBIDDEN AREA. HOWEVER, AFTER I HAD COME TO LIVE IN TOKYO, I HAD COME TO REALIZE THAT PEOPLE WHO WEREN'T FROM HIROSHIMA OR NAGASAKI REALLY DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE CALAMITY OF THE ATOMIC BOMB. UNLIKE ME, IT'S NOT THAT THEY DIDN'T TRY TO LEARN ABOUT IT – IT WAS THAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT IT, EVEN IF THEY WANTED TO.

THEREFORE, I THOUGHT THAT THE SENSE OF GUILT THAT JAPAN IS CALLED THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD TO FALL VICTIM TO THE ATOMIC BOMB (ACTUALLY THIS SHOULD BE CHANGED TO "ONE OF THE FEW COUNTRIES", INCLUDING "DEPLETED URANIUM SHELLS") AND ENJOYS PEACE WAS STRONGER THAN THE UNNATURALNESS I FELT AS A PERSON FROM HIROSHIMA. I SHOULDN'T HOLD BACK, AND EVEN THOUGH I HADN'T EXPERIENCED THE ATOMIC BOMB NOR WAR, I HAD TO TELL THE STORIES OF THE DIFFERENT GENERATIONS IN DIFFERENT PLACES, AND IN THEIR OWN WORDS,

AND I HAD TO THINK ABOUT PEACE AND TELL ABOUT THAT AS WELL. THE HAND WITH WHICH I DRAW MY MANGA TAUGHT ME THAT, AND GAVE ME COURAGE. THERE WERE MANY EXPRESSIONS WITH WHICH I WAS NOT FAMILIAR, AND I WAS REALLY WORRIED, BUT I WAS ABLE TO DRAW UP THE MANGA WHILE TELLING MYSELF THAT IT'S BETTER THAN WRITING NOTHING AT ALL.
MY FATHER TAUGHT ME ABOUT THE CUSTOMS OF THE 1950S, AND HAD MY SISTER RESEARCH A LOT OF THINGS AT THE LIBRARIES OF HIROSHIMA.
I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW ENCOURAGING IT WAS TO BE ABLE TO MEET MR. ISAO MURAKAMI. HE POLITELY AND KINDLY ANSWERED MY IGNORANT AND ILL-MANNERED QUESTIONS.
MR. SOMEYA OF FUTABASHA, UNDER YOUR GUIDANCE, I WAS TRULY ABLE TO GIVE MORE THAN 100% TO MY WORK. THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE ME, I'LL COMPLAIN LESS.
AND THEN, MORE THAN ANYONE, YOU – THE READER OF "TOWN OF EVENING CALM" – ARE WHO FINALLY MAKES THIS 35-PAGE STORY WITHOUT A PUNCH LINE COMPLETE, ACCORDING TO WHAT IT MADE YOU FEEL IN YOUR HEART. AS YOU GO ON TO LIVE A RICH, FULL LIFE, I THINK THAT THIS TALE WILL BE GIVEN A JARRING CONCLUSION. I HOPE I CAN DRAW IT LIKE THAT.
ALSO, IN "COUNTRY OF CHERRY BLOSSOMS", I TRIED TO DRAW THE THINGS THAT THE ME OF TWO YEARS AGO – WHO WOULD CONSTANTLY TRY TO ESCAPE WHENEVER I HEARD THE WORDS "ATOMIC BOMB" – WANTED TO KNOW THE MOST.
I TRULY WISH FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART THAT SOMEDAY THIS WORK WILL FIND YOU, WHO REALIZED "THAT'S HOW IT WAS FOR ME, TOO", AND WILL BE FOSTERED STRONGLY AND GENTLY, LIKE CHERRY BLOSSOMS.
THANK YOU SO VERY, VERY MUCH.

AUGUST 2004 ON A WINDY AFTERNOON

FUMIYO KONO

初出
「夕凪の街」…WEEKLY漫画アクション 2003年9月30日号
「桜の国(一)」…漫画アクション 2004年8月6日号
「桜の国(二)」…描き下ろし

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